PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON, M.D.

Biographical Data

Biographical information sent to:

The National Cyclopedia of American Biography
101 Fifth Avenue
New York 3, New York

PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON, M.D.

Born in WALLINGFORD, VERMONT August 21, 1875 (at 2:00 p.m. Saturday)

Father's name Otis Sanborn Johnson
Born in Quaker City, New Hampshire, in the town of Unity
He was Headmaster at Brigham Academy, Bakersfield, Vermont

Paternal grandfather:

Moses Johnson

Mother's maiden name:

M. Blanche Sherman

Mother's father's name:

Ezra W. Sherman
Classmate in Middlebury College and life-long friend of
Hon. Edward John Phelps who was later, in 1883, Minister to
Great Britain.

Graduated from the UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT A.B., cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa 1898

Graduated from the UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEDICAL SCHOOL in 1900 with highest honors
and First in his Class

Surgical House Officer, Boston City Hospital 1900 - 1903

SURGEON, BEVERLY HOSPITAL, BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS 1903 - to date

SURGEON-IN-CHIEF AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF BEVERLY HOSPITAL 1916 - to date

Founder member of AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS 1913

PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON, M.D.

continued

Appointed member of Board of Directors of Massachusetts Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children	1914
Founder member of NEW ENGLAND SURGICAL SOCIETY	1916
Treasurer of NEW ENGLAND SURGICAL SOCIETY	1921 - 1934
President of NEW ENGLAND SURGICAL SOCIETY	1935
Consultant Surgeon North Shore Babies' Hospital Salem, and Essex County Sanatorium, Middleton, Massachusetts	1916
Member of Beverly School Committee	1917 - 1922
Vice President of Essex South District Medical Society	1914 - 1915
President of Essex South District Medical Society	1917 - 1918
Vice President of Massachusetts Medical Society	1928 - 1929
Fellow of the Boston Medical Library	
Founder member of the AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY	1937
Member of Board of Trustees, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEDICAL SCHOOL	1930 - 1933 1942 - 1946 1949 - to date
President of Medical Alumni of University of Vermont	
Vice President of Medical Alumni of University of Vermont	1948

Served in the Spanish-American War	1898
CAPTAIN, MAJOR and LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN MEDICAL CORPS OF UNITED STATES ARMY IN FRANCE	1917 - 1919
CHIEF OF SURGICAL STAFF of Evacuation Hospital Nine at Vaubecourt, France	

PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON, M.D.

continued

With Army of Occupation in Coblenz, Germany	1918
CHIEF SURGEON Base Hospital, Camp Sherman in Ohio	1919

DIRECTOR OF BEVERLY NATIONAL BANK	1932 - to date
Appointed CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE OF BEVERLY By Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety	1941 - 1944
Appointed REGIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR, REGION IV, By Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety	1941 - 1944
Surgical Consultant - Medical Advisory Board #5	1941 - 1944
Honorary Membership in AOA, National Medical Honor Fraternity, "For accomplishments in the field of medicine	1952
50th year in practice of Surgery at BEVERLY HOSPITAL (GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR celebrated)	1953

University Club, Boston

Manchester Yacht Club

Eastern Yacht Dlub, Marblehead

The Cruising Club of America (Boston Chapter)

Married to Elizabeth Gould Torrey, Beverly, Massachusetts in Beverly, Massachusetts in 1906 (January 8)

PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON, M.D.

continued

Her father's name: Samuel William Torrey, M.D. (deceased)
Surgeon

Three children:

Deborah, married to Richard E. Alt, M.D., Beverly, Massachusetts

Elizabeth, married to John W. Bethell, Essex, Massachusetts

Peer Prescott Johnson, Jr., married to Catherine Ward, Beverly, Mass.

First paternal American ancestor, maiden name of wife, and line of descent from them:

Edmund, from Wales in 1635, settled in Winnicumet, New Hampshire, now Hampton		and wife Mary ?
Peter, first white child born in Winnicumet, 1639		and wife Ruth Moulton
Edmund	1671 - 1737	and wife Abigail Green
Obediah	1705	and wife Judith Brown
Enoch	1748 - 1817	and wife Lydia Purington
Amos	1789 - 1851	and wife Huldah Green
Moses	1813 - 1900	and wife Hannah Sanborn 1822 - 1845
Otis Sanborn	1845 - 1886	and wife M. Blanche Sherman
Peer Prescott	1875	and wife Elizabeth Torrey

MAY 26 1959

JOHNSON, Peer Prescott, surgeon, was born in Wallingford, Vt., Aug. 21, 1875, son of Otis Sanborn and Marietta Blanche (Sherman) Johnson and a descendant of Edmund Johnson, who came from Wales and settled at Winnicumet (later Hampton), N. H., in 1635. From Edmund the descent was through Peter and Ruth Moulton, Edmund and Abigail Green, Obediah and Judith Brown, Enoch and Lydia Purington, Amos and Huldah Green, and Moses and Hannah Sanborn, the grandparents of Peer P. Johnson. His father was an educator. After receiving his preliminary education at public schools in Burlington, Vt., Dr Johnson was graduated B.A. in 1898 and M.D. in 1900 at the University of Vermont. From 1900 until 1903 he was surgical house officer at Boston (Mass.) City Hospital. Since the latter year he has practiced as a general surgeon in Beverly, Mass., and has been a surgeon on the staff at Beverly Hospital. He was surgeon-in-chief at that institution from 1916 until 1953 and since 1916 has been chief-of-staff. Among papers which Dr. Johnson has contributed to medical journals are: "Retroperitoneal Perirenal Lipoma; Report of Case" (Boston Med. & Surg. Jour., Dec. 1923), "Report of a Case of Fibromatosis of Pelvic Colon" (ibid., May 1927), "Diagnosis and Management of the Acute Surgical Lesions of the Lower Abdomen" (ibid., Aug. 1927), "Acute Appendicitis" (N.E. Jour. Med., Aug. 1932), "The Contribution of the Community Hospital to Better Medical Service" (ibid., Feb. 1936) and "Hemorrhage from the Gall-bladder" (ibid., Mar. 1946.) Aside from his medical interests, he has been a director of the Beverly National Bank since 1932. During 1917-22 he was a member of the Beverly School Committee and since 1914 has been a trustee of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He also served as a trustee of the University of Vermont ~~Medical School~~ and in 1952 was named honorary chairman of that school in the University of Vermont Development Program. During the Spanish-American War he served as a private with the 1st Vermont Volunteers. During the First World War he was a captain and subsequently lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and served in France as chief of surgical staff of Evacuation Hospital No. 9 in Vaubecourt. Later he was stationed in Coblenz, Germany, with the Army of Occupation and prior to receiving his discharge in 1919 he was chief surgeon at the base hospital, Camp Sherman, Ohio. With this country's entry into the Second World War in 1941, he was appointed regional medical director, Region IV, by the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety, and by appointment of the committee, also served as chairman of the Health and Social Service of Beverly until 1944. Additionally, he was surgical consultant to the local medical advisory board during the war period. An honorary D.Sc. degree was conferred on him by the University of Vermont in 1956, and he is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In February, 1958, he was honored as Man of the Year by the Beverly Lodge of B'Nai B'rith, and in June of that year he received the University of Vermont Alumni Distinguished Service Award. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery; a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the New England Surgical Society (pres, 1935) and Boston Medical Library; and a member of the American, Massachusetts, and Essex South District medical associations, Sigma Phi, and the University Club of Boston. An ardent yachtsman, he is also a member of the Manchester (Mass.) Yacht Club and The Cruising Club of America. His religious affiliation is with the Congregational church. Politically he is a Republican. Dr. Johnson was married in Beverly, Jan 8, 1906, to Elizabeth Gould, daughter of Samuel William Torrey of that place, a surgeon, and has three children: Deborah, who married Richard Edward Alt; Elizabeth, who married John Warren Bethell; and Peer Prescott.

who were of good Quaker stock.

and honorary member of A.T.O.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE
University of Vermont.

BURLINGTON, VERMONT.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

REV. JOSEPH TORREY, D. D.,
PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL WHITE THAYER, M. D.,
PROFESSOR OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL ANATOMY.

WALTER CARPENTER, M. D.,
PROFESSOR OF THEORY AND PRACTICE, AND MATERIA MEDICA.

DAVID S. CONANT, M. D.,
PROFESSOR OF THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY.

JOSEPH PERKINS, M. D.,
PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

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PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY AND MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.

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PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND TOXICOLOGY.

CHARLES L. ALLEN, M. D.
CIVIL AND MILITARY HYGIENE.

SAMUEL WHITALL,
PROSECTOR TO THE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY.

CHARLES P. THAYER.
PROSECTOR TO THE PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

S. W. THAYER,
DEAN OF MEDICAL FACULTY.

The next Annual Course of Lectures in this Institution

WILL COMMENCE ON

Thursday, February 23d, 1865, and continue sixteen weeks.

At the commencement of the Series, every Student is required to call on the Dean and enter his name and place of residence, and the name and place of residence of his preceptor, in the Register, and pay all fees for the course.

FEES:

MATRICULATION.....$3

DEAN'S CERTIFICATE, (entitling the h[illegible] to the Tickets of all the Professors).....$50

GRADUATION,.....18

Students who have attended full courses in other regular Medical Institutions, will be admitted upon the payment of the Matriculation fee and a fee of $10.

On Saturday of each week a Medical a[illegible] Clinique will be held at the College.

The Dissecting Room will be open through the series. An ample supply of anatomical material for dissection will be furnish[illegible]udents at cost.

Students are requested to come provided w[illegible] o[illegible] more text books of Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Surgery, Obst[illegible]cs [illegible]y and Practice of Medicine, Materia Medica and Therapeutics.

Board from $4 to $ [illegible] Week.

Good accommodation furnished students who wish to board themselves.

Students who intend to board themselves will find it greatly to their advantage to come provided with such bedding and bed clothing, and culinary articles as they can conveniently bring with them from home. Many adopt this method at a great reduction of expense.

Students on coming to Burlington

are invited to call at Dr. Thayer's Office, American Hotel, where they will obtain all necessary information and assistance. All those wishing further information may address by letter Dr. S. W. Thayer, Burlington, Vt.

SAMUEL W. THAYER,
Burlington, Vermont,
Dean of Medical Faculty.

DOCTOR PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON

1875	August 21	Born in Wallingford, Vermont
1898		AB from University of Vermont, cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa
1898		Served in the Spanish-American War
1900		Graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School with highest honors and First in his Class
1900-1902		Surgical House Officer, Boston City Hospital
1903	January	Came to Beverly, Massachusetts. Assistant to Dr. Torrey
1903	March 11	Board of Registration in Medicine
1903	November 18	Member of the Massachusetts Medical Society
1903	December	Appointed to Staff of Beverly Hospital
1913	November 13	Founder member of American College of Surgeons
1914		Appointed to Board of Directors of MSPCC
1914-1915		Vice President Essex South District Massachusetts Medical Society
1916	February 5	Founder member of New England Surgical Society
1916		Appointed Surgeon-in-Chief of Beverly Hospital
1916		Consultant at North Shore Babies' Hospital, Salem
1916		Consultant at Essex County Sanatorium, Middleton
1917-1918		President Essex South District Massachusetts Medical Society
1917-1922		Member of Beverly School Committee
1917	August	Enlisted in Army Medical Corps with rank of Captain and assigned to Camp Harrison, Indiana. From there he was sent to Camp Oglethorpe, Riley, and Merritt
1918		Went overseas with rank of Major
		Chief of Surgical Staff of Evacuation Hospital Nine at Vaubecourt, France
		Promoted to Lt. Col.

			With Army of Occupation in Coblenz, Germany
1919	April	13	Arrived back in United States
			Chief Surgeon Base Hospital, Camp Sherman in Ohio
1919	July		Completed military service
1928-1929			Vice President of Massachusetts Medical Society
1932 to date			(Dec. 2) Director of Beverly National Bank
1934			Fellow of the Boston Medical Library (non-resident)
1920-1934			Treasurer of New England Surgical Society
1934-1935			President of New England Surgical Society
1937			Founder member of American Board of Surgery
1939-1940			Councilor Massachusetts Medical Society
1941			Appointed Regional Medical Director, Region IV, by Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety
1941-1944			Surgical Consultant - Medical Advisory Board #5
1944	March	22	Appointed Chief of Staff
1930-1933 1942-1946 1949-1952			Board of Trustees, University of Vermont Medical School
1949			Vice President of Medical Alumni of University of Vermont
			President " " " " " " "
1952			Honorary membership in AOA, National medical honor fraternity, "For accomplishments in the field of medicine"
1953			50th year in practice of Surgery at Beverly Hospital (Golden Jubilee Year celebrated). Retires as Surgeon-in-Chief
1956	June	10	Citation by President Carl W. Borgmann, University of Vermont Medical School to Peer Prescott Johnson: Because of your great contribution to the people of this state and nation, including your leadership in the development of American surgery, and your inspiration to all young surgeons in training, this University takes pleasure in honoring you. By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees. I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa, and admit you to all its honors, rights, privileges, and obligations.
1957	May	12	Dedication of PEER P. JOHNSON BUILDING - 300 beds

DOCTOR PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON

1958	February	23	Honored as 'MAN OF YEAR' at Beverly Lodge of B'nai B'rith Dinner
1958	June	16	Honored with the University of Vermont Alumni Distinguished Service Award "because he has through a long and brilliant career in his chosen field of Surgery brought credit and honor to his University and because he has in many ways performed service far above and beyond the ordinary for the University and its College of Medicine."
1960	Oct.	25	Mrs. Johnson passed away
1961	July		Retires as Chief of Staff an office he had filled since March 22, 1944 but to continue as Consultant in Surgery.
1963	Feb.	28	Dr. Johnson passed away
1963	March	10	Memorial Service for Dr. Johnson

PEER P. JOHNSON LECTURE IN SURGERY

1950 Charles G. Mixter, M.D.

Subject: "SURGICAL TRENDS SINCE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY"
(First)

1951 Arthur W. Allen, M.D.

Subject: "THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF DUODENAL ULCER"
(Second)

1952 Frank H. Lahey, M.D.

Subject: "THE NEW CONCEPTS ABOUT THE ORIGIN AND MANAGEMENT OF THYROID DISEASE"
(Third)

1953 Willian B. Castle, M.D.

Subject: "SOME IMMUNOLOGIC ASPECTS OF BLOOD DISORDERS"
(Fourth)

1954 John D. Stewart, M.D.

Subject: "THE EFFECTS OF HEPATIC ISCHEMIA"
(Fifth)

1955 William E. Brown, M.D.

Subject: "THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IN MEDICAL EDUCATION"
(Sixth)

1956 Richard B. Cattell, M.D.

Subject: "CARCINOMA OF THE LARGE BOWEL"
(Seventh)

PEER P. JOHNSON LECTURE IN SURGERY

1957 — Robert Gross, M.D.

Subject: "HORIZONS IN SURGERY"
(Eighth)

1958 — The Honorable Joseph B. Harrington

Subject: "THE DOCTOR AND THE LAW"
(Ninth)

1959 — Howard J. Lockward, M.D.

Subject: "THE MANCHESTER PLAN" and
Progressive Patient Care
(Tenth)

1960 — John T. Fey, J.S.D.,L.L.D.

Subject: "UNIVERSITIES, MEDICAL
EDUCATION AND THE COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL"
(Eleventh)

1961 — Perry B. Hudson, M.D.

Subject: "STAPHYLOCOCCUS PROBLEM"
(Twelfth)

1962 — Thomas B. Quigley, M.D.

Subject: "MUSCULOSKELETAL INJURIES;
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE
PLAYING FIELD"
(Thirteenth)

1963 — George R. Dunlop, M.D.

Subject: "PRESENT CONCEPTS OF SHOCK
AND RENAL SHUTDOWN"
(Fourteenth)

PEER P. JOHNSON LECTURE IN SURGERY

1964 J. Maxwell Chamberlain, M.D.

Subject: "THE SMOKING HABIT: AUTO-AIR POLLUTION"
(Fifteenth)

1965 Albert G. Mackay, M.D.

Subject: "THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IN GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION"
(Sixteenth)

1966 J. Hartwell Harrison, M.D.

Subject: "RECENT ADVANCES IN SURGERY OF THE ADRENAL"
(seventeenth)

THE PEER P. JOHNSON TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP

1948	Clifford C. Agnew, M.D.
1949	E. Sherburne Lovell, M.D.
1950	Max Dubin, M.D.
1952	Frank E. Bixby, M.D.
1952	Donald E. Brown, M.D.
1953	Richard H. Dolloff, M.D.
1953	Russell J. Rowell, M.D.
1955	George W. Miller, M.D.

JUST TO REMIND YOU, DR. JOHNSON, OF WHAT THEY SAY -------

"I am deeply grateful for the surgical experience which I had while working under your direction. Never before have I so sincerely admired a community, a hospital or surgeon. My stay there was of inordinate value to me and to my future patients. I remain astounded by the extent to which your community has been altered by your life within it. Working for you was a great pleasure and a rare privilege--one which I cannot reasonably expect to happen to me again."

Perry B. Hudson, M.D.

"I am sure no matter how much more training I may have that my training with you will be the most profitable in my experience."

John D. Coe, M.D.

"Through you, the Beverly Hospital has been a rewarding experience and in all humility I say that it will never be surpassed. Your teaching and guidance of young men like myself make an indelible impression. I pray that through future performance I may maintain your high standards and be a credit to the Roster of men privileged to begin their professional career with you at Beverly Hospital. Wherever I go, the respect and admiration I feel for your wisdom as a man and your skill as a surgeon will remain a lasting part of me.

Victor Perlow, M.D.

"It is always especially good to hear news of Dr. Johnson. If ever a man deserves citation for "service above and beyond the call of duty" it is he! He has the utmost admiration, respect, and real affection of those of us who were his students and now are his associates. I always experience a feeling of real pride to say I know and have worked with him."

Dr. Golden to William R.P. Emerson, M.D.

"The problem of community medicine and hospitals is not well understood or appreciated by many leaders and teachers in the medical schools. Having never seen their problems at first hand, they cannot realize what a fine piece of work you have done in a community hospital which is held up as a splendid example of what a community hospital can and should be. Your work is applauded widely."

Warren Babson, M.D.

"I have found over and over again that the practical problems of general surgery in an industrial community would be difficult for me to solve were it not for the splendid training which you gave me in Beverly. It might be the simple removal of a sliver from a hand (you may remember the case in which I learned my lesson) or the drainage of a subphrenic abscess through the posterior route, but no matter what the problem, I can always fall back on my training at Beverly. I feel sure that limiting the Staff of the hospital to a few members is much more valuable to the man trying to learn general surgery than the helter-skelter methods of a hospital trying to teach general surgery through a very large Staff with each member of that Staff having his own system."

Frank Giuffrida, M.D.

"Although I have been on the Surgical House Staff of four hospitals, I have not seen in any of the others the well-integrated ward surgical service which I found at Beverly. Without any doubt the most profitable and instructive service which I have had is the one at Beverly. Surgery as it is taught and practiced at the Beverly Hospital is the most splendid example of how much can be done by a man who is honestly interested in developing young surgeons of whom he may be justly proud in the years to come."

Perry B. Hudson, M.D.

"I believe your system in Beverly has much more to offer than a residency in one of the larger hospitals because Beverly takes in all the types of work seen by the practicing surgeon after he gets out on his own. In Beverly I saw the rare cases as well as the more common and all were very well handled. As for the general surgical work under your direction, I have yet to find a better or more capable surgeon. Responsibility and teaching as you apportion it to the resident is excellent training. The teaching at Beverly is comparable to the best. I cannot help but again mention your personal touch and contact with the residents and I am still leaning on the personal teaching and instruction in both the art and science of surgery that you gave me."

Frank J. Logler, M.D.

"Thank God you are a giant of strength, a tower of wisdom, and a rock of patience!

Charles Branch, M.D.

"You are a real friend and a great surgeon." (Interns' Book)

William F. Pearce, M.D.

"In Dr. Johnson the Beverly Hospital has one of the most skilled and humanitarian persons at its head.

Mayor Daniel E. McLean

"Master surgeon and humanitarian." (Interns' Book)

Saul M. Marcus, M.D.

"Tough on the outside but solid 14K gold on the inside." (Interns' Book)

C. Stanley Huntington, M.D.

"As the only living member of the original Board of Directors, no one would know better what we all owe to Dr. Johnson for his skill and devotion to one hospital."

Mrs. Dudley L. Pickman, Sr.

"Credit for the efficiency of the Beverly Hospital Staff goes to Dr. Johnson, Chief Surgeon, who ranks among the top of the list of the country's 'ten best' as selected by the Mayo Brothers. Beverly Hospital has always placed emphasis on the best type of service. This has been inevitable because of the character and standards of its Chief Surgeon, Dr. Johnson. He is intolerant of mediocrity. Dr. Johnson is the heart of Beverly Hospital--to him should go full credit for the superior type of service provided by the hospital."

Mr. Frederick Ayer

"Men and not buildings make an institution. In the high professional standing of the Beverly Hospital, Dr. Johnson has been its guiding spirit and motivating force. So long and faithfully has he worked that his name has become almost synonymous with that of Beverly Hospital. We look to him with admiration and respect and especially as a friend to whom we gladly turn when in need of advice or assistance."

Albert E. Parkhurst, M.D.

"Received a thoughtful note about the Surprise Party. What was done for you can only express in a small way our gratitude for the inspiration and help you have been to those who have come under your guidance."

George M. Wheatley, M.D.

"The Directors are to be congratulated upon finding a man of so great skill and generosity to furnish inspiration and direction of the activities of the Hospital as resides in this one person."

William T. Hopkins, M.D.

"You made a painful experience easy to bear, and from my heart I thank you for the understanding way you bore with me and for the masterly way you eased my arm back to usefulness."

Mrs. Ruth Lambert Cheney

"Dr. Johnson came to my room one morning before breakfast. 'Does Dr. Johnson always come in this early?' I asked. The nurse said, 'He is here every morning at this time or earlier.'"

"It is the event of the day when Dr. Johnson tours the Hospital with an entourage made up of the House and Staff Doctors. Dr. Johnson stands head and shoulders above the crowd and radiates confidence and good cheer."

"The depleted Staff is doing double duty due to the absence of those serving in the Armed Services and an added load of responsibility is thrown upon our Surgeon-in-Chief, Dr. Johnson. Even those who know him best marvel at the quantity as they long have at the quality of his surgery. He is doing more surgery than should be asked of any one man.

In addition to carrying on a heavy Surgery schedule, Dr. Johnson is Chief Medical Officer of Civilian Defense, Region IV, and has completely organized its emergency medical facilities. He is also Chairman of Health and Social Service of Beverly and Surgical Consultant on the Medical Advisory Board #5.

No one not intimately connected with the Hospital can appreciate the devoted and skilled service which Dr. Johnson has rendered to the Hospital and this community throughout the war."

Mr. Frederick Ayer

"He is really a "PEER" among men - as a man and a doctor."

Mrs. C.O. Hood

"It was very nice of you to send me the clippings of our friend, Dr. Johnson, for whom I hold the highest respect, both as a man and physician."

S.A. Zacarian, M.D.

"With the highest esteem to Dr. Peer P. Johnson, eminent and distinguished surgeon, whose influence has led me to the study and practice of the art of surgery. (Interns' Book)

Robert A. Bolduc, M.D.

JUST TO REMIND YOU, DR. JOHNSON, OF WHAT THEY SAY -----

"I am so sorry I could not be there to renew old acquaintance, and particularly to add my word of recognition of Dr. Johnson's character. I don't believe there are many men who have had such strong moral convictions about surgical practice, and who have had the persistent courage to stand by their convictions."

William J. Barnes, M.D.

"I often find myself saying 'now how would Dr. Johnson make this incision?' The basic surgery that we obtained at Beverly sticks with us over the years. I have been around other hospitals and medical centers over the twenty years since I left Beverly and I am still to see any finer teaching than I had there.

Would you please tell the Chief that I am wishing him the best as always and hope to be seeing him before many months go by if I can possibly get down that way."

Harvey B. Whiting, M.D.

"Much as I should have liked to, I fully realize that you could spendvery little time talking with me personally and how you distribute yourself so evenly among your following to the complete satisfaction of all is one of those tricks I am afraid most of us will never learn. It is perhaps unfortunate but not entirely unexpected that all that was said there scarcely more than glossed the surface. As have you, I have been privileged to listen to long perorations and accolades delivered in many languages and after each, I am eternally impressed with the fact that actually what is in people's hearts can scarcely ever be expressed in words. That dinner was no exception. I am sure that you thoroughly understand that every man in the room loves you dearly as a friend, a father, spiritual guide and mentor, as well as a scientific teacher and that not a single solitary one of us would ever have amounted to a 'hoot in Hell' without your deeply and delightfully stimulating presence. I suspect from all I heard that many of them like myself, feel your hand reach out to them over the miles and after these long years to guide them in some major decision.

God bless you! It was a delightful evening and I hope to see its like many times again."

Charles Branch, M.D.

"I believe that I am in a position to judge Bill Brown's address. I thought it thorough and superb. I congratulate you that such a worthy man should help carry on a part of the tradition of Beverly Hospital as a teaching center which you, through your incessant labors and sacrifices have made such a vital and widely-known one."

Morris B. Sanders, M.D.

"All the honors in the world could never match all the contributions Dr. Johnson has made."

A. William Friend, M.D.

"P.P.J.", as I fondly call him, has had more influence on my life than anyone. He gives one a sense of "solidness", and dependability that is lacking so frequently today in those who would be leaders in our profession."

Clarence E. Moore, M.D.

"It was the design and hope of those friends of Dr. Johnson who established this lectureship, that the address would be given annually on Hospital Day, that a recognized leader in the science and art of surgery be chosen to present this address, and that the lecture bear Dr. Johnson's name in recognition of his many contributions to surgery."

"Borrowing a custom usually associated with academic institutions was considered quite appropriate because so much of Dr. Johnson's fruitfulness is in his teaching. Education, after all, is not entirely a matter of academic walls, formal lectures and arranged curricula. As Dr. Zinser once stated, "One learns from men, not curricula."

Richard E. Alt, M.D.

"I received with great pleasure the reprint of the First Annual Peer P. Johnson Lecture in Surgery, presented so well by Dr. Charles Mixter. It is a fitting tribute, and I want to express my own joy in knowing that you have been so honored. I sincerely believe that few lectures have been endowed in honor of man as worthy as you. I, for one, have truly benefitted from having worked with you. From that association I learned many valuable lessons, some of which I am sure you are not aware of having imparted to me."

Joseph A. Cunningham, M.D.

"To the Chief: He who made from Beverly Hospital something that most of my friends do not believe, It is a miracle."

Abdul Hashim, M.D.

On the occasion of the First Annual Peer P. Johnson Lecture, May 1950:

"I am happy to have the opportunity to show my appreciation of his friendship and my esteem for his qualities as a surgeon, feelings that have strengthened with the years."

Charles G. Mixter, M.D.

On the occasion of the Second Annual Peer P. Johnson Lecture, May 1951:

"The former pupils and friends of Dr. Johnson are to be congratulated on the establishment of an Annual Lecture named in his honor. In my humble opinion, this form of recognition of the achievement of great men more nearly accomplishes the purpose intended than any other. Interested in teaching as Dr. Johnson is and has been throughout his professional career, these occasions should give him pleasure and in the future perpetuate one of his chief purposes in life. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be chosen as one of the earlier lecturers.

JUST TO REMIND YOU, DR. JOHNSON, OF WHAT THEY SAY -----

I have known Dr. Johnson for many years. Even before I actually knew him, his name was a byword as an outstanding surgeon among my teachers and among his countless patients and friends. Close observation of his integrity and character during a long association in our mutual interest in the American College of Surgeons, of which he is a founder, and the New England Surgical Society, of which he is also a founder, has deepened my respect for him. It is difficult for me to adequately express or appraise my sincere interest in the development of the practice of medicine which he has fostered in this community. Of this I am sure, that we have here an outstanding example of medical care at its best in a community hospital. The care of the patient as the first concern of all honest and sincere physicians is so well illustrated by Dr. Johnson's accomplishments in this community institution, that is stands as a pattern that I would like to see widely adopted."

Arthur W. Allen, M.D.

On the occasion of the Third Annual Peer P. Johnson Lecture

"Beverly Hospital is one of the finest smaller community institutions of its kind in the world. The hospital reflects the man responsible for it, Dr. Johnson!"

Frank H. Lahey, M.D.

On the occasion of the Fourth Annual Peer P. Johnson Lecture and 50th Year at Hospital

"There has been a thread-no, a cord, even a hawser would be more appropriate because of its size and strength--that has passed through those 50 years and through every room in the hospital, carrying a continuity of one thought without end 'THE WELFARE OF THE PATIENT COMES FIRST.' Dr. Johnson has instilled this single but fundamental philosophy into all those who work or who have worked here. The Beverly Hospital will always be a good hospital as long as that philosophy prevails."

Richard E. Alt, M.D.

"The Beverly Hospital is as fine and well equipped hospital as I have seen anywhere in the course of my professional experience throughout the world but no hospital is better than the personnel which maintains the service to the community. Dr. Johnson is one of the greatest surgeons in the nation."

William B. Castle, M.D.

Please refer to Dr. Parkhurst's remarks on the occasion in honor of Dr. Johnson's active association with Beverly Hospital for fifty years (May 16, 1953)

PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON: CITATION June 10, 1956

"Because of your great contribution to the people of this state and nation, including your leadership in the development of American Surgery, and your inspiration to all young surgeons in training, this University takes pleasure in honoring you.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa, and admit you to all its honors, rights, privileges, and obligations."

President Carl W. Borgmann
University of Vermont

"There is no question about it in my mind that these honors are well deserved. No one knows better than I, during the short period that I was fortunate to be associated with you at the Beverly Hospital; how much time, energy, and thought you have given to the problems of all types of patients, poor as well as rich, whenever they came under your care.

I feel very honored to think that I had the opportunity to have been taught my fundamental principles of surgery by you. The Credo that the patient's welfare must come first was well instilled in my mind by your teaching and indirectly that principle has probably been of value during my years of practice because the habit has stuck to me and I have not forgotten your teachings along this line."

Saul M. Marcus, M.D.

On May 12, 1957 over 3,000 persons assembled to honor Dr. Peer P. Johnson at a new five-story addition to the Beverly Hospital which was dedicated to Dr. Johnson in recognition of the 54 years he has devoted to the Hospital.

Guest of honor at the ceremony was United Nations Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge and other speakers included President Borgmann; Frederick Ayer; Clarence Wilkinson and Mae A. Bartley. Please see copies of speeches in special book.

On February 23, 1958 Dr. Peer P. Johnson honored as 'Man of Year' at Beverly Lodge of B'nai B'rith Dinner. Hailed as a distinguished surgeon and teacher, humanitarian and public servant, sportsman and linguist, craftsman and humble friend to all through half a century of service to Beverly Hospital and his community, Dr. Peer P. Johnson was presented the "Citizenship Citation for Meritorious Service" before 200 friends and neighbors. Read Dr. Parkhurst's tribute.

University of Vermont, 1958. Dr. Peer P. Johnson presented Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

September 24, 1959 VERMONT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL DEDICATES THE SURGICAL LABORATORY IN ITS NEW BUILDING TO DR. PEER P. JOHNSON

Chicago
May 7,1950

Dear P.P.J. -

It is 4:00 a.m. and the desolate moaning of the fog-bound diaphone over on the pier in the center of this great city,is as lonely as any that ever bellowed off the New England coast; perhaps my insomnia is just overtiredness from my recent peripatetic existence,(It's highly enlightening to travel 25,000 miles in four months but I am sure I would have had more fun if I'd joined the Navy!); on the other hand,I strongly suspect my conscience has something to do with it,for Anna was promised that this would be in her hands,long since.

Of the thousands of people who love and admire you,how can this offering be short enough to possibly interest you? Of the hundreds of your boys whose lives you have so intimately and magnificently touched,how can I write anything worthy of t[illegible] Chief? It is ridiculous to presume that I can add lustre to the myriad honors you wear so gracefully.

Of all the tangible things in life, words are so frequently the most useless to express the intangibles of the spirit. You mean so many things to so many people,-- it is quite impossible to even remotely reflect them from the few dim facets of my cosmos. Scholar-tutor-mentor-scientist and physician-staunch colleague-good neighbor-friend-uncompromising critic-loyalty above and beyond the call of duty-good soldier-patriot-builder-organizer-sound financier-and always an affectionate father. It has been my great privelage to stand with you at many a bedside and, even as the sound of the grinding was low and the shadows gathered, watch you bring smiles of courage and hope to wan lips parched beyond recovery. Beside you in the operating room, I have watched your strong, deft fingers and scintillating skill bring swift order out of certain disaster. I have heard you listen to the petty, sordid details of a thousand lives and watched your infallable good humor, justice, perspicacity and sagacity, set them all to rights.I have watched you build a building,-organize a hospital,-direct a bank,-run a university,-teach students,-sail a boat,-and eat a lobster, with butter gracefully smeared from ear to ear. Perhaps the greatest defection of your fine sensibilities has been your honoring me by admitting me to your home, your coterie of friends and the camaraderie of your spirit.

Rarely in the lifetime of our evolution does a man of science, art and the humanities rise to the stature of a Penr Johnson. Your students and your works are immortalized because you passed this way.

May God, bless and prosper you-

Affectionately, Charles Branch

*Later hobby--making furniture--coffee table and chair, chests, bowls, etc.

May 16, 1953

Remarks made by Dr. Albert E. Parkhurst following the FOURTH ANNUAL PEER P. JOHNSON LECTURE by Dr. William B. Castle, on the occasion of the presentation of a wrist watch from the Staff of Beverly Hospital in honor of Dr. Johnson's active association with Beverly Hospital for fifty years.

Dr. Johnson: About the time you and Dr. Fine took off on your trip to Spain, some of us were reminded of the fact that this is your 50th year in practice, a goal few physicians or surgeons ever reach. Our heartiest congratulations, Peer, and the assurance that none of us had suspected it, as your activities and interests have not lessened! No doubt you would prefer that little be said or done about it, but it seemed to us that such an occasion should not be forgotten.

Despite these many strenuous years, with their daily and nightly problems, during which you gave so freely of your time, ability and skill to the relief of people's surgical illness and trauma, without consideration of your own health or rest, you have reached this notable achievement in longevity without any enduring physical handicap. We rejoice in the fact that your health is good and that you are still guiding the course of Beverly Hospital as Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff. We still look to you as the source of wisdom and sound advice when confronted with some difficult problem in surgical diagnosis or procedure. Your opinions and judgment, based upon sound preparation and a vast clinical experience, have always been accurate, reliable, and in the best interest of the patient. Furthermore, your reputation as a great humanitarian has grown with the years.

As evidence of the fact that physically Time has dealt kindly with you, is

it not true that you are still the first to appear in the morning and that you still expect to start your first operation at 7:30, or even earlier, if you can get the rest of the team together? Inwardly, at least, do you not derive great satisfaction from your ability to complete some of the longer and more complicated operations within a period of time that is the ambition of younger surgeons? These, plus your many and varied interests, your leadership, your comments and criticisms in Staff meetings and conferences, and your readiness to fight for what you believe to be right, mark you as the stalwart among us.

Just to relate a little history for those who have never known the facts, Dr. Johnson came to Beverly in January, 1903, and became associated with the late Dr. Samuel W. Torrey, who for years was a well-known and very capable physician and surgeon in this area, and the founder of Beverly Hospital. He received his license to practice in March, 1903, and was appointed to the Staff of Beverly Hospital in December, 1903. In 1916 he was appointed Surgeon-in-Chief and Chief of Staff, in which capacity he has continued to serve, with two years out for World War I, from which he returned a Lieutenant Colonel. Founder memberships in the American College of Surgeons in 1913, the New England Surgical Society in 1916, and the American Board of Surgery in 1937, show the high regard in which he has been held by the leaders in his profession and stamp him as one of the outstanding surgeons of our time.

The growth and reputation of Beverly Hospital today shows the wisdom and the prophecy of the condition upon which he accepted the appointment as Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff. He demanded and received from the Directors of the Hospital the authority and power to act as he believed in the best interests of the patient and the Hospital, even though such action might not be popular with all members of the Staff. This he has courageously continued to do.

As we look around, we realize how fortunate we have been that the destinies of Beverly Hospital have been under the guidance of a man of such rare stamina and ability, wise in decision and resolute in judgment, yet generous, warm-hearted, steadfast in friendship, and beloved by a host of patients, friends and associates. Although he has been a surgeon for fifty years, we rejoice in the fact that he is still with us in active practice, and we hope will be on the job for many years to come.

Dr. Johnson: - On behalf of the Staff of Beverly Hospital, who gave voluntarily, without being assessed, and so generously that the needed amount was over-subscribed, it gives me great pleasure to present you with this wrist watch as a token of our admiration, esteem and affection, on the occasion of your 50th year of outstanding service and accomplishments in surgery at Beverly Hospital.

MEMORIES OF DR PEER P. JOHNSON

For Peer P. Johnson Lecture

June 13, 1964

As remembered by Mrs. Gertrude Popkin Feder, Medical Social Worker

All through Dr. Johnson's career it was apparent that his medical care of the patient and his devotion to community service were unrelated to any desire for great financial reward. He was known to resist rising hospital rates. And, in countless situations patients were never billed for his services. He was a man deeply moved by the sight of abject poverty.

A reliable source recounts his house call to a patient shortly after his arrival in this community sixty years ago. It was in a low income, unskilled workingman's tenement district now described by government as a "blighted area". A young mother, seriously ill, confined to bed, needed medical care. After Dr. Johnson examined her and prescribed, the patient carefully reached under her pillow and removed three crumpled dollar bills. In humble gratitude she offered Dr. Johnson payment for his services and he graciously accepted. With a parting wave of his hand he found his way to the outside of the house where, on the front doorstep, three children awaited him fearfully and anxiously. "Your Mother is going to be all right," he assured them. He bent down, patted each one on the back, said they were lovely children and slipped a crumpled dollar bill into the palm of each little hand.

Dr. Johnson was not only a surgeon but a man of many talents. Sailing was one of them. He was known locally and elsewhere as an expert navigator who could chart a course by the stars. He took keen delight in sharing the Mobjack, a forty-five foot ketch with everyone. Many a Sunday saw him sailing with interns and residents, or with hospital trustees, or with some real landlubbers on the lower hospital echelon.

About four years ago his secretary phoned six of the landlubbers - five women and one man - for an impromtu sail from the Manchester Yacht Club at five o'clock. None - except the Chief and his college student helpmate - was an experienced sailor. But everyone looked forward to the ocean air and to an appetizing four-course dinner carefully packed by the "young" ladies. The Chief's well-known sharp, dry wit was always at top form when he was host to neophyte sailing enthusiasts.

The weather was undecided and the passengers hoped the clouds would disperse. The trip from Manchester to Beverly was progressing most favorably and dinner was about to be served as we approached the Beverly Harbor. Captain Dr. Johnson in his full majestic height was pointing out coastal spots of interest and recounting colorful local history while his mate was at the helm with a harbor map outstretched. Dr. Johnson gave directions upon entering the channel. How we entered between the wrong buoys is

difficult to explain but almost immediately we were the victims of an outgoing tide. A fishing boat piloted by a well-known local female, Dr. Johnson's patient for over twenty years, came close by and cried out, "Not you, Dr. Johnson! After all these years sailing in and out of here!" Both her rope and that of a sophisticated yacht ("stink pots" the Chief called yachts) couldn't budge the Mobjack off the sandbar. The mast was now at a 45° angle with the ocean surface. Suddenly a loudspeaker from the direction of Salem Harbor burst forth in the stillness of the night - "Shall we come and take you off?" We suspected it might have come from the Coast Guard. With quiet firmness Dr. Johnson said "Tell them - NO!" And then added "that's all the local papers need for a good story."

Dr. Johnson had great respect for Mother Nature and always worked hand in hand with her. He explained that in four hours the tide would be high enough to release us. And he was right. Dinner, served at a 45° angle, was delicious. And we navigated back to Manchester in a thick fog with the landlubber sailor as lookout after the Chief declined following the lead of another helpful "stink pot".

As remembered by CAMP S. HUNTINGTON, M.D., Intern 9.1.39 to 9.1.40

One of my first professional confrontations with "The Chief" occurred my first week at Beverly on male surgical ward during ward rounds - Grand Rounds! Dr. Commette had thoroughly indoctrinated me with respect for Dr. Johnson's uncompromising demand for nothing but peak performance from his staff. This included, among other things, utter disdain for excuses when the job wasn't done right.

I was presenting one of my first cases, as a most nervous intern, - a bleeding duodenal ulcer, ' a case requiring at least daily blood counts and hemoglobin determination. After a long recital of history physical findings and much lab work I relaxed feeling I had made a rather commendable and impressive presentation. Said the Chief, "--and what is his hemoglobin this morning?" With no slight horror I realized this was the thing I'd forgotten to do - really quite unforgiveable! In hollow tones I told this 10 foot tall epitome of medicine that I had not done his hemoglobin. "Why Not?" he boomed. (Doctors Kelly, Bolduc, and Hermanson all averted their faces so as not to see the axe fall.) I decided to just tell him the bare facts without excuses, so said, "I forgot."

Expecting an excuse from me, he apparently was taken entirely off guard. His built up pressure of rightous wrath went out in one long sigh followed by a quiet "Don't forget again!" and we resumed rounds.

I also recall one evening that Doctors Hermanson, Bolduc, Kelly, and Huntington had quite a party in their quarters which ultimately included tons of pecan shells all over the floor. We had just been turned down on our bid for a stipend of $10.00 a month for cigarette money etc.

(There being no pay for interns at Beverly in those days.) This rejection led to mild rebellion in the form of this rather "nutty" revelry, also aided and abetted by Roberta with some thirst quenching goodies to wash down the pecans. Somehow the all-knowing Chief got word of the event and we all expected the worst. The following a.m. as we joined Dr. Johnson at 7:30 a.m. to scrub for surgery - we obviously the worse for wear - he scrubbed meticulously and quietly while we scrubbed and sweated! Finally in his deep voice he said, "Well, are you boys ready to go back to work now?" We were!

There are many others too, many gentle gems of kindness that perhaps drew little attention at the time but are long remembered.

I particularly recall one night at Staff meeting in the Library, I was exhausted and fell asleep. He quietly came by my chair and suggested I go to bed. His manner and tone of voice were such that it was readily recognized as a kindly gesture and not a sarcastic reproach.

As remembered by ANNA ALLEN, Record Librarian

During prohibition, 100% proof alcohol was disappearing from a locked closet in the Laboratory, much to the dismay of the Lab technician in charge of reporting its use. Dr. Johnson suggested putting a little croton oil in it. The culprit was assisting in the Operating Room the next morning and in no little distress before Dr. Johnson excused him.

Dr. Johnson stopped at the bedside of a patient during Rounds and asked the intern to read the History and Physical Exam he had written. Usually Dr. Johnson interrupted before the intern fairly got started, but this time he let the intern continue for some time before he walked over and looked over the intern's shoulder. Just as he had surmised, the intern was reading from a blank page!

Another time, Dr. Johnson said, "Did you examine the patient's eyes carefully, doctor?" When the intern answered in the affirmative, Dr. Johnson said, "Read your findings." So he read, "pupils equal, regular, react normally." Dr. Johnson said, "Examine the right eye again, doctor." The intern found a prosthesis in the eye socket.

As remembered by DR. BENJAMIN RISEMAN, Intern 7.1.31 to 8.1.32

In my time at the Beverly Hospital, Dr. Johnson handled practically all the fractures with splints, weights, etc. It seemed no matter how we interns put up a fracture, Dr. Johnson would say, "I could do better with a shingle, shoe string, and a stick of chewing gum."

One day, Dr. Finnin put up a fracture of the humerus and Dr. Johnson began to tell him what was wrong with it. Right then and there Dr. Finnin pulled out the "shingle, shoe string and a stick of chewing gum." The roar of laughter from Dr. Johnson nearly blew the roof off the hospital.

As remembered by DR. ROWELL, intern 4.1.46 to 7.1.47, now anesthesiologist at Beverly Hospital

In the days when there was only one intern and no resident on duty, the intern called Dr. Johnson at his home one night to tell him that one of Dr. Johnson's male patients was uncomfortable with a full bladder and could not void. Dr. Johnson in his usual succinct manner said, "Make him comfortable."

The young intern did. He took the patient to the Surgery and performed a suprapubic cystotomy. When Dr. Johnson made Rounds the next morning, he inquired about the patient who needed catheterization in the night and was stunned when the intern told him he had operated on one of his patients.

As remembered by DR. FINE, intern 9.1.36 to 9.1.37, now Chief of the Department of Anesthesiology Beverly Hospital

On a trip with Dr. Johnson, as we crossed over the line into Vermont, Dr. Johnson gave me a jab in the ribs and said, "Tip your hat, you are in Vermont!"

On another trip to Vermont, Dr. Johnson and I stopped at the old Hotel Vermonter in Burlington. Dr. Johnson ordered flapjacks just so he could have some Vermont maple syrup. He stuck his finger in the syrup and tasted it and then called to one of the waitresses (none of whom appeared under 80 years of age) and roared that this was not Vermont syrup. She tried to tell him that it was. He held up his sticky finger and said, "Taste it". She hurried away and brought back a new supply of Vermont maple syrup.

On another occasion when Dr. Risley and I were on Dr. Johnson's boat off the Maine coast in one of the worst storms I have ever been out in, with high winds and heavy waves, the mainsail shredded and Dr. Risley and I were trying to pull it out of the water. Dr. Johnson was concerned about the jib and left the wheel to check on it. Just then a huge wave broke over the boat and Dr. Johnson disappeared. When the water receded Dr. Johnson was flat on his back, soaking wet and a little stunned. As soon as he was assisted to his feet and before we could get him to change into dry clothing, he said, "What would you have done if I had been washed overboard?" We gave all the wrong answers such as throwing out life preservers, etc. Right then and there he gave us instructions in detail. He was first and always a teacher.

Memories of Dr. Peer P. Johnson

Although Dr. Johnson had a reverent regard for individual differences, he was even more attuned to basic human similarities. He was known to have said, in the selection of interns in the early days of developing a teaching hospital - "I'm interested in his brain, not his creed."

Many years ago Dr. Johnson had as a patient a celebrated personality who was suffering from a minor but most inconvenient ailment. The Chief quickly got at the seat of the trouble in the Operating Room. As he entered the Doctor's Room a young intern, duly impressed and starry-eyed, summoned enough courage to ask respectfully - "Dr. Johnson, how does it feel to operate on such a famous person?" Came the quiet, clipped reply as he strode on - "her derrière is no different from anyone else's!"

Gertrude Popkin Feder

May 7, 1964.

MRS. SAMUEL J. NEWMAN
250 BEACON STREET
BOSTON 16, MASSACHUSETTS

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Dr. Johnson was infinitely kind to the families of his patients. In spite of his busy days, he found time to heal their wounds. That is how the little millinery business of Madame Chapeau (so named by Dr. Johnson) came into existence. Knowing that hat-making would be therapy for a saddened mother,

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The Chief Is Dead

Dr. Peer P. Johnson, 87, Pioneered Hospital Here

2-28-63

Hundreds Loved Him For Service, Devotion

By RITA JEAN DUNN

The dean of New England physicians and surgeons is dead, but the tradition that Dr. Peer P. Johnson exemplified is immortalized in his students, his work and "his" hospital.

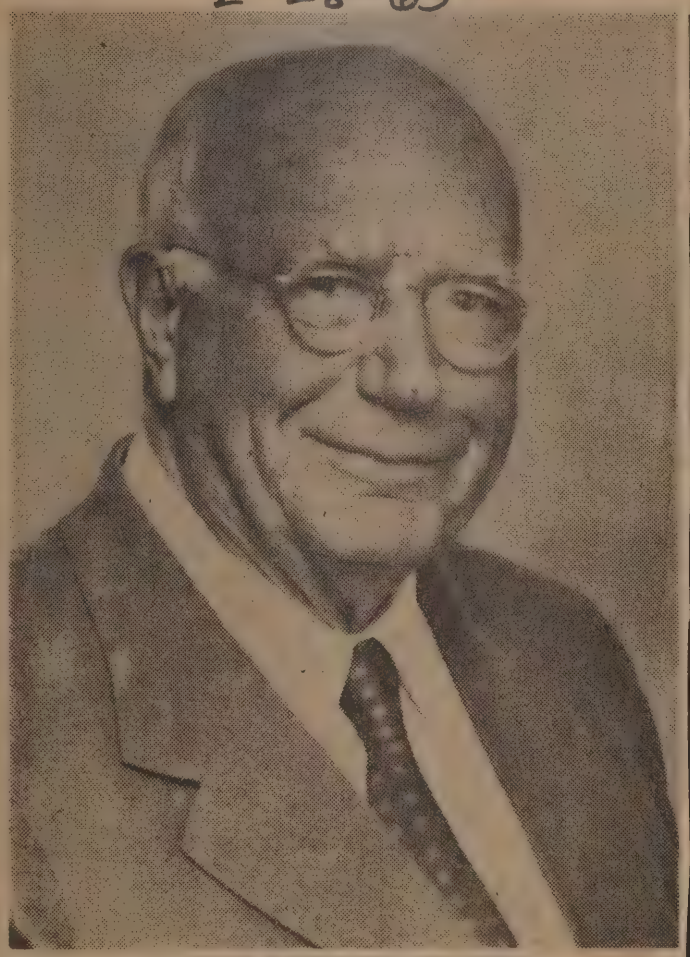
He has been described as "a man of science, art and the humanities . . . scholar, tutor, mentor, scientist, physician, staunch colleague, good neighbor, friend, uncompromising critic, soldier, patriot, builder, organizer, sound financier and affectionate father and grandfather."

His interests beyond the medical field and his family were in his boats and his hobby of creating beautiful furniture and other useful articles from wood.

Dr. Johnson's first boat in 1938 was the Jaloma, which began his tremendous interest in the sea. His most recent boat was the Mob Jack, a 48 foot ketch, on which he spent most of last winter in Florida waters. He was a member of the Manchester Yacht club, the Eastern Yacht club in Marblehead and the Cruising Club of America.

His colleagues found in him not only a teacher but a counsellor. Everyone who knew him responded to the warmth of his personality and the greatness of his contribution.

This is seen in the following statement signed by all the school children of Beverly when he returned from World War I; "We the school children of Beverly wish to thank you for the honor that has been bestowed upon our community and, we feel, upon the schools and we extend to you our sincere greetings and a hearty welcome home." The community honored him at that time with a dinner given by the School Committee to welcome him back.



DR. PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON

Famed Surgeon Dedicated Life To Building Medical Center

Dr. Peer Prescott Johnson, chief of the medical staff at Beverly Hospital, died at the hospital yesterday afternoon at 1:30.

Born in Wallingford, Vt. on August 21, 1875, Dr. Johnson first came to Beverly in 1903. He established in this city the finest community hospital in the country, Beverly Hospital, with the single fundamental philosophy, "the welfare of the patient comes first."

When he resigned in July 1961 as the active chief of staff, an office he had filled for 45 years since 1916, he continued as consultant in surgery. The decision was made then at the hospital that the title of Chief would not be bestowed on any other doctor.

Dr. Johnson, the son of Otis Sanborn Johnson and M. Blanche (Sherman) Johnson, served Beverly not only as its leading physician and surgeon, but in many civic capacities as well. He was a member of the Beverly School Committee from 1917 to 1922 a member of the board of directors of the Beverly National Bank from 1932 to the present, and was honored by the Beverly Lodge of B'nai B'rith as the "Man of the Year" in 1958.

A graduate of the University of Vermont, cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, he also graduated from that university's medical school first in his class and with highest honors in 1900.

He was honored by the university in 1956 with a degree of doctor of science in recognition of his great contribution to the people of that state and the nation. He was a member of the board of trustees of the University of Vermont Medical school and served as both vice president and president of the Medical Alumni of the university. He received the

—Famed Surgeon

(Continued from Page 1)

Men who studied with him and went on to greatness of their own returned to Beverly each year to honor him during alumni weekend. The Peer P. Johnson lectureship was established to be given annually on Hospital Day by a leader in the "science and art of surgery." It was named for him "in recognition of his contribution to surgery."

Those who worked with him never failed to recognize the greatness of his contribution for as Frederick Ayer, past president of Beverly Hospital, is quoted as having said, "Credit for the efficiency of the Beverly Hospital staff goes to Doctor Johnson, chief surgeon, who is among the top of the list of the country's 'ten best' as selected by the Mayo brothers. Beverly Hospital has always placed emphasis on the best type of service. This has been inevitable because of the character and standard of its chief surgeon, Dr. Johnson."

Now, Dr. Johnson is dead, but so well did he build that all he represented will live on and continue to grow through those men who were his students and became his colleagues.

university's Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1958.

His medical career, which he started as surgical house officer at the Boston City Hospital in 1900, was otherwise centered in Beverly. He was appointed surgeon - in - chief at the Beverly

—Dr. Johnson—
(Continued on Page 6)

—Dr. Johnson

(Continued on Page 6)

hospital and chief of staff in 1916. At that time also he was a consultant at North Shore Babies' hospital and at the Essex County Sanatorium in Middleton.

A member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, he was a founder member of the American College of Surgeons and of the New England Surgical Society, which he also served as treasurer and president. He also was a member of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

He was vice president and president of the Essex South District of the Massachusetts Medical Society and vice president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which he also served as a councilor from 1939 to 1940.

In 1941 he was appointed chairman of the health and social service of Beverly by the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety, which also appointed him regional medical director of region four. He was surgical consultant for the Medical Advisory Board from 1941 to 1944.

Dr. Johnson received an honorary membership in AOA, national medical honor fraternity "for accomplishments in the field of medicine," in 1952. The following year he celebrated his Golden Jubilee of 50 years in the practice of surgery. In May of 1957 he was honored at the dedication of the Peer P. Johnson 300-bed addition to Beverly Hospital.

The Johnson Laboratory at the University of Vermont was named in his honor. In 1950 Beverly Hospital instituted the annual Peer P. Johnson Lectures in Surgery. Dr. Charles G. Mixter of Boston gave the first lecture in his series, which each year brings an outstanding medical leader to Beverly.

A lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War I, Dr. Johnson also served in 1898 in the Spanish-American War. He enlisted in the Medical Corps in 1917 as a captain, went overseas in 1918 with the rank of major and was chief of the surgical staff of Evacuation Hospital Nine at Vaubecourt, France. He served with the Army of Occupation in Coblenz, Germany and in 1919 was chief surgeon at the Base Hospital in Camp Sherman, Ohio.

The husband of the late Elizabeth Gould Torrey, Dr. Johnson, of 15 Washington street is survived by: two daughters, Mrs. Richard E. Alt of Beverly and Mrs. John Bethell of Essex; one son, Peer P. Johnson, Jr. of Beverly; three sisters, Mrs. Edward A. Appleton of Springfield, Miss Grace Johnson of Belmont and Mrs. Frederick E. Hopkins, also of Springfield; three granddaughters, Mrs. Elizabeth (Alt) Strauch, Miss Mary Alt and Mrs. Deborah (Bethell) Zobel; three grandsons, Thomas Noble Bethell, John T. Bethell and Peer P. Johnson, III, and three great -grandchildren.

Funeral services will be private. Friends may pay their respects at the Lee and Moody funeral home today, 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. The family requests that flowers be omitted. Memorial donations may be made to the Beverly Hospital Fund for Medical Education. Public memorial services will be held at a date to be announced.

Dr. Johnson Of Beverly Has Stroke

BEVERLY, Feb. 18—Unable to attend a B'nai B'rith testimonial which last night honored Richard E. Alt as Beverly's man of the year was the recipient's father-in-law, Dr. Peer P. Johnson, who has been confined to Beverly hospital since Friday.

Dr. Johnson, who suffered what hospital spokesmen said was a mild stroke, was reported "resting comfortably" this morning. The 86-year-old dean of the Beverly medical profession is being attended by Dr. Clyde Woodworth.

Dr. Johnson himself was recognized as B'nai B'rith's Man of the Year in 1956.

DOCTOR HOSPITALIZED

The police ambulance shortly after 10 o'clock this morning took Dr. Peer P. Johnson of Washington street to the Beverly hospital. Dr. Johnson is chief-of-staff at the Hospital.

59-51-6

UNUSUAL TRIBUTE PAID DR. PEER JOHNSON AT PUBLIC MEMORIAL SERVICES

Members of medical profession joined the clergy and general public in unusual tribute to outstanding Beverly doctor during 90-minute rites in Beverly Memorial Junior High school. Flanking painting of Dr. Johnson on stage of Loring auditorium are, left to right: Rabbi Irving Botwinik, Temple B'nai Abraham; Rev. Patrick H. Curtin, pastor of St. John the Evangelist church; Rev. Robert L. Rasche, minister of Second Congregational church; Dr. Jacob Fine, speaker; Frederick Ayer, past president of Beverly hospital, speaker; Mayor Thomas J. Wickers, Jr., Dr. Albert E. Parkhurst, chairman; Miss Mae Bartley, former hospital administrator; speaker; Dr. Perry B. Hudson, former pupil of Dr. Johnson, speaker and Neil Ayer, master of ceremonies. (See story on Page 6)
(Staff Photo)

NOTICE OF DEATH

Name: Peer Prescott Johnson 15 Washington Street Beverly, Massachusetts

Place of death: Beverly, Massachusetts February 28, 1963 Age: 87

Born at: Wallingford, Vermont August 21, 1875

Son of: Otis Sanborn Johnson and M. Blanche Sherman

Education received at: University of Vermont - A. B. (Cum laude) 1897
University of Vermont Medical School - M. D.
(With highest honors) 1900

Awarded Doctor of Science degree from
University of Vermont 1956

He settled in: Beverly, Massachusetts, in 1903

He held these offices: See attached sheet

He was a member of: See attached sheet

Writings: See attached sheet

Cause of death: Cerebral thrombosis

Wife: Elizabeth Gould Torrey When married: January 8, 1906

Children: 2 daughters - 1 son Any in medicine: No

Do wife and children survive? Wife deceased (1960) Three children survive

PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON

He held these offices:

Surgeon-in-Chief, Beverly Hospital	1916 to 1953
Chief of Staff, Beverly Hospital	1916 to 1961
Consultant Surgeon, North Shore Babies' Hospital, Salem, and Essex County Sanatorium, Middleton	1916
President, Essex South District Medical Society	1917 to 1918
Vice President, Massachusetts Medical Society	1928 to 1929
President, New England Surgical Society	1935
Member of Board of Trustees, University of Vermont Medical School	1930 to 1933 1942 to 1946 1949 to 1953
President of Medical Alumni, University of Vermont	
Director, Beverly National Bank	1932 to date
Chairman of Health and Social Service of Beverly	1941 to 1944
Member of Beverly School Committee	1917 to 1922
Regional Medical Director of Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety	1941 to 1944
Surgical Consultant - Medical Advisory Board #5	1941 to 1944

He was a member of:

Essex South District Medical Society
Massachusetts Medical Society
Founder member of New England Surgical Society
Founder member of American College of Surgeons
Founder member of American Board of Surgery
American Medical Association
Boston Medical Library
Boston Surgical Society
University Club, Boston
Manchester Yacht Club, Manchester, Massachusetts
The Cruising Club of America (Boston Chapter)
Charter member, The Order of Lafayette (National Chapter)

Children:

Deborah Johnson Alt (Mrs. Richard E.)
Elizabeth Johnson Bethell (Mrs. John W.)
Peer P. Johnson, Jr.

Peer Prescott Johnson, M. D.

List of Writings

(1) RIGHT COLECTOMY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE END RESULTS OF A SERIES OF TWELVE CASES

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal February 22, 1917

(2) MEGACOLON IN THE ADULT WITH REPORT OF TWO CASES

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal
Vol. CLXXXIV, No. 4, pp 88-92, January 27, 1921

(3) RETROPERITONEAL PERIRENAL LIPOMA: REPORT OF CASE

Reprint from Boston Medical and Surgical Journal
Vol. 189, No. 23, pp 907-911, December 6, 1923

(4) REPORT OF A CASE OF FIBROMATOSIS OF PELVIC COLON

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal
Vol. 196, No. 18, pp 721-723, May 5, 1927
Read before the New England Surgical Society October 1, 1926

(5) DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ACUTE SURGICAL LESIONS OF THE LOWER ABDOMEN

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal
Vol. 197, No. 6, pp 205-210, August 11, 1927

(6) ACUTE APPENDICITIS

Paper read before the Section of Surgery of the Massachusetts Medical Society at its Annual Meeting June 10, 1932
New England Journal of Medicine
Vol. 207, No. 8, pp 352-353, August 25, 1932

(7) THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TO BETTER MEDICAL SERVICE

President's address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the New England Surgical Society at Manchester, New Hampshire, September 27, 1935
New England Journal of Medicine
Vol. 214, No. 7, pp 295-298, February 13, 1936

(8) ACUTE PANCREATIC DISEASE

Paper given at the Vermont Sesquicentennial (of the Vermont State Medical Society) October 2, 1941

(9) HEMORRHAGE FROM THE GALLBLADDER

New England Journal of Medicine
Vol. 234, pp 438-441, March 28, 1946

PEER P. JOHNSON, M.D.

Dr. Peer P. Johnson died of a cerebral thrombosis in Beverly, Massachusetts on February 28, 1963, at the age of 87.

Doctor Johnson was born in Wallingford, Vermont, on August 21, 1875, the son of Otis Sanborn Johnson and M. Blanche (Sherman) Johnson. He received his A.B. degree from the University of Vermont cum laude and as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, he received his M.D. degree with highest honors from the University of Vermont Medical School with the class of 1900. His Alma Mater recognized his great contribution to surgery by awarding him the Doctor of Science Degree in 1956. He had been a member of the board of trustees at the University of Vermont Medical School and served both as vice-president and president of the Medical Alumni of that university. He received the university's Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1958.

He received his surgical training at the Boston City Hospital following which he established practice in Beverly, Massachusetts, in 1903. He was appointed surgeon-in-chief at the Beverly Hospital and chief-of-staff in 1916 at which time he was also a consultant at the North Shore Babies' Hospital and at the Essex County Sanatorium in Middleton. He was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the American Medical Association, Boston Medical Library, and Boston Surgical Society. He was also a founder member of the New England Surgi-

cal Society, American College of Surgeons and the American Board of Surgery. He was vice-president and president of the Essex South District of the Massachusetts Medical Society and vice-president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which he also served as a councilor from 1939 to 1949.

Doctor Johnson served in the Spanish-American War in 1898, and enlisted in the Medical Corps of the United States Army in 1917 as a captain, going overseas with the rank of major, and was chief of the surgical staff of Evacuation Hospital Nine at Vaubecourt, France. He served with the Army of Occupation in Coblenz, Germany, and in 1919 was chief surgeon at the Base Hospital at Camp Sherman, Ohio, at which time he was a lieutenant colonel. During World War II he served as surgical consultant to Medical Advisory Board No. 5.

His surgical life did not prevent him from entering into community affairs and he was a member of the Beverly School Committee from 1917 to 1922, and a member of the board of directors of the Beverly National Bank from 1932 to the present. He was honored by the Beverly Lodge of the B'nai B'rith as the "Man of the Year" in 1958. His many activities also included his hobby of boating, being a member of the Manchester Yacht Club, the Eastern Yacht Club in Marblehead and the Cruising Club of America.

The Johnson Laboratory at the University of Vermont was named in his honor, and in 1957 there was dedicated the Peer P. Johnson addition to the Beverly Hospital. In 1950, the Beverly Hospital instituted the annual Peer P. Johnson Lecture Series in Surgery, and Doctor Charles G. Mixter gave the first lecture of this series, which each year brings an outstanding medical leader to Beverly.

He was president of the New England Surgical Society in 1935, and his presidential address entitled "The Contribution of the Community Hospital to Better Medical Service" was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* 214:295-298, 1936.

J.J.B.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 268 No. 20 1143

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

DR. PEER PRESCOTT JOHNSON, 1875-1963

Dr. Peer P. Johnson died quietly on February 28, in his eighty-seventh year, after a short illness. Despite poor and failing health for several years, he continued to be quite

active until 1961, when he resigned as chief of staff of Beverly Hospital. His retirement at that time ended a service of forty-five years, during which period he had been chief of staff and chief of surgery for thirty-seven years. He lived to enjoy seeing Beverly Hospital become generally recognized as a well established, fully accredited community hospital, making a definite contribution to the progress of medicine while serving the needs of the community.

He was born in Wallingford, Vermont, in 1875. When ready for college, he entered the University of Vermont, where he received both his academic and his medical education. He graduated with an A.B. degree, *cum laude*, and he also made Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated from the Medical School in 1900 — again with honors.

After receiving his medical degree he spent three years at Boston City Hospital as surgical intern and resident in surgery. In 1903 he went to Beverly to become associated with the late Dr. Samuel W. Torrey, an unusually capable surgeon with a large practice, who also became the founder of Beverly Hospital. At that time, 3 of his 5 daughters were still unmarried. Three years later Miss Elizabeth Gould Torrey and Dr. Johnson were married. Three children were born, 2 daughters and a son, all living at present: Deborah (Mrs. Richard E. Alt), of Beverly; Elizabeth (Mrs. John W. Bethell), of Essex, Massachusetts; and Peer P. Johnson, Jr., of Beverly. Mrs. Johnson died in October, 1961.

Dr. Johnson was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, when he served as surgeon, and also of World War I, in which he was chief of surgery in a large and busy evacuation hospital in France. At the end of the war he was discharged with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

He was a founder member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Board of Surgery and the New England Surgical Society. He was also an active and enthusiastic member of the Massachusetts Medical Society for over fifty years, the American Medical Association and the Boston Medical Library. Besides holding offices in the Essex South District (several terms as councilor, and president for one year), he was also vice-president of the Massachusetts Medical Society for the year 1928-29. Between 1918 and 1946 he wrote and delivered several papers on surgical topics and was always an active participant in the affairs, programs and objectives of these various organizations. He was also an excellent teacher and was the guiding spirit in starting Beverly's clinical and educational programs.

Being civic minded, he accepted responsibility of many local affairs. He served five years as a member of the Beverly School Committee and was a director of the Beverly National Bank from 1932 until his death.

He loved sailing and was a competent navigator. Many weekends and vacations were spent with friends on his boat. Other hobbies included woodworking and the study of modern languages. He had conversational knowledge of Spanish and French, which was very helpful in his trips to Central and South America and to Europe.

He was always an enthusiastic and loyal alumnus of the University of Vermont. Representing the Medical School, he served three terms on the University's Board of Trustees and was president of the Medical Alumni for one year. In 1956 the University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, and in 1958 he was given the Vermont Alumni Distinguished Service Award. The high and affectionate regard in which he was held was well expressed by President Carl Borgmann in making the presentation, when he said: "Because of your great contribution to the people of this State and Nation, including your leadership in the development of American surgery, and your inspiration to all young surgeons in training, this Uni-

versity takes pleasure in conferring upon you the honorary degree of Doctor of Science."

His character and reputation and his example will continue to guide and influence his associates in the years to come as they carry on at Beverly Hospital. Their goal shall be to strive to have Beverly Hospital maintain its present high ideals and standards as relating to patient care and also to its clinical and educational programs. These must always be of such quality as would have met Dr. Johnson's approval.

A. E. P.

OBITUARY

Dr. Peer Prescott Johnson

Dr. Peer P. Johnson died quietly on February 28, in his 87th year, after a short final illness. Despite poor and failing health for several years, he continued to be quite active until 1961, when he resigned as Chief of Staff of Beverly Hospital. His retirement at that time ended a period of 45 years, during which he had been Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery for 37 years. He lived to enjoy seeing Beverly Hospital become generally recognized as a well-established, fully-accredited community hospital, making a definite contribution to the progress of medicine while serving the needs of the community.

He was born in Wallingford, Vermont, in 1875. When ready for college, he entered the University of Vermont, where he received both his academic and his medical education. He graduated with an A. B. degree, cum laude, and he also made Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated from Medical School in 1900 - again with honors.

After receiving his M. D. degree, he spent three years at Boston City Hospital as surgical intern and resident in surgery. In 1903, he came to Beverly to become associated with the late Dr. Samuel W. Torrey. Dr. Torrey was a very capable general surgeon with a large practice, and he also became the founder of Beverly Hospital. At that time, three of his five daughters were still unmarried. Three years later, Miss Elizabeth Gould Torrey and Dr. Johnson were married. Three children were born, two daughters and a son, all living at present. They are: Deborah (Mrs. Richard E. Alt) of Beverly; Elizabeth (Mrs. John W. Bethell) of Essex; and Peer P. Johnson, Jr., of Beverly. Mrs. Johnson died in October, 1960.

Dr. Johnson was a Veteran of the Spanish-American War, when he served as Surgeon, and also of World War I. Here he was Chief of Surgery in a large and busy evacuation hospital in France. When discharged from the Service, he held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He was a founder member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Board of Surgery and the New England Surgical Society. He was also an active and enthusiastic member of the Massachusetts Medical Society for over 50 years, the A. M. A., and the Boston Medical Library. Besides holding offices in the Essex South District (several terms as Councilor, and President for one year), he was also Vice President of the Massachusetts Medical Society for the year 1928-29. Between the years of 1918 and 1946, he wrote and delivered several papers on surgical topics and was always an active participant in the affairs, programs and the objectives of these various organizations. He was also an excellent teacher and was the guiding spirit in starting Beverly's clinical and educational programs.

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Albert E. Parkhurst, M.D.

For New England Journal
May 16, 1963

PEER P. JOHNSON, M.D.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

MARCH 10, 1963

PROGRAM

Mr. Neil R. Ayer	President of Board of Directors
Father Patrick H. Curtin	Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church of Beverly
The Honorable Thomas J. Wickers, Jr.	Mayor of City of Beverly
Albert E. Parkhurst, M.D.	Associated with Dr. Johnson since 1920 Visiting Physician (former Chief of Medical Service and Obstetrical Service) etc. Past President of Staff Beloved by Dr. Johnson
Mr. Frederick Ayer	Member of Board of Directors since 1922 President 1928 - 1959 Old time friend and associate
Miss Mae A. Bartley	Student nurse 1922 - 1925 Night Supervisor 1925 - 1930 Asst. Supervisor 1930 - 1933 Administrator 1933 - 1960
Rev. Robert L. Rasche	Pastor of Second Congregational Church of Beverly
Jacob H. Fine, M.D.	Intern 1936 - 1937 Medical Resident 1937 - 1938 Dr. Johnson asked him if he would study Anesthesiology and come back to Beverly which he did Now Chief of Anesthesiology Department since 1940
Perry B. Hudson, M.D.	One of Dr. Johnson's most brilliant students (Surg. Res. 1945) Now Professor of Urology at Montefiore Hospital, New York City Also Professor of Zoology at Columbia University

Rabbi Irwin Botwinick of the Temple B'nai Abraham

REMARKS BY MR. NEIL R. AYER
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

What an honor this is for me to preside at the memorial services of so great a man.

I should like to call on Father Patrick H. Curtin, Pastor of St. John The Evangelist Church of Beverly to deliver the Invocation.

Father Curtin.

There may be some among you who do not know that this auditorium is named for a man who was a life-long personal friend of Dr. Johnson's. Mr. Augustus Loring not only served on the School Committee with Dr. Johnson, but shares his enthusiasm for cruising.

Our first speaker represents the people of the community whom Dr. Johnson and his hospital served. The Honorable Thomas J. Wickers, Jr., Mayor of the City of Beverly, is a most appropriate spokesman to call upon for this purpose, for he knows first-hand what a top-notch hospital means to the citizens of a city, and he knows first-hand that the caliber of any organization is a direct reflection of its leader.

Mayor Wickers.

Among the many doctors who worked through the years with Dr. Johnson, perhaps most beloved by the "Chief" was Dr. Albert E. Parkhurst. Dr. Parkhurst came to Beverly and became associated with Dr. Johnson in 1920. All of you know Dr. Parkhurst as former Chief of Medical Service,

former Chief of Obstetrical Service and former President of the Medical Staff. Dr. Johnson often referred to Dr. Parkhurst as "the salt of the earth and a truly dedicated man", and so many times became annoyed at him because he thought he worked too hard.

Dr. Parkhurst.

Of Dr. Johnson's many friends perhaps the one man whose life was influenced most by the association was my father. It was Frederick Ayer's enormous respect and devotion to Dr. Johnson which caused him to take the intense interest which he did in the world of medicine -- an interest which did much to bring to Beverly the fine reputation which its hospital now enjoys. Father has served as a member of Beverly Hospital's Board of Directors since 1922 and took the helm as its President from 1928 to 1959.

Father.

The lady, who for 27 years ran Dr. Johnson's hospital for him, is our next speaker. Miss Mae A. Bartley, since she came to Beverly as a Student Nurse in 1922, has held the love and admiration of all of those who have come into contact with her. Miss Bartley became a Night Supervisor at Beverly the year she graduated from Nursing School in 1925, acted in the capacity of Assistant Supervisor from 1930 to 1933, and was Superintendent at Beverly from 1933 to 1960. Besides a life dedicated to her fellowmen, Miss Bartley shares one honor in common with Dr. Johnson. She too received the "Man (in this case, the Woman) of the Year Award" from the Beverly Chapter of the B'nai B'rith.

Miss Bartley.

Those devoted to Dr. Johnson number many. A service, such as this, cannot possibly include in its program all who would like to stand up here to add their personal tribute. Among those whom limited time alone will keep silent while we here speak is Miss Anna Allen our Record Librarian at the Beverly Hospital. Dr. Johnson considered complete and accurate medical records an absolute necessity. Miss Allen established and maintained for him a medical record library second to none in the country and, in fact, a model which many other hospitals have copies. The day before yesterday I telephoned Miss Allen to check on some dates to be used in connection with my role here today. During our conversation she commented, "To me the year 1922 was a particularly important one. Dr. Parkhurst became a member of the staff, your father was elected to the Board of Directors, Miss Bartley became a Student Nurse -- and I just came here to work."

Another is Dr. Clarence Moore up here today from his post as Surgeon for the Harrisburg Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Moore was a summer intern at Beverly in 1925 and 1926 and returned to us in 1927. When Dr. Moore came back in 1927, Dr. Johnson is reported to have commented to him, "Now, boy, that you have all those degrees we'll start to teach you something". Dr. Moore thought the world of Dr. Johnson and comes back to Beverly often.

And, there are many others -- some of whom cannot be here today. A one-time resident at Beverly wrote a letter which in part said, "I'm sad that I won't be able to attend the memorial service, but the truth is that I carry his memorial with me. Whenever I commence a surgical

procedure I always ask myself -- 'how would Dr. Johnson have approached this one?' "

Next, I should like to call on for his remarks the Reverend Robert L. Rasche, Pastor of the Second Congregational Church of Beverly.

Doctor Rasche.

Among Dr. Johnson's medical associates are to be found many men of unusual ability and understanding. One of these is Dr. Jacob H. Fine who was brought to Beverly by Dr. Johnson as an intern in 1936. He stayed on as a Medical Resident until 1938. At that time the science and skill of anesthesiology was a very infant thing. Dr. Johnson was years ahead of his time in this, and so sent Dr. Fine to Hartford to study anesthesiology and then come back to Beverly. This he did and has been Chief of the Department of Anesthesiology since 1940. Dr. Fine had as great an opportunity as any single man to observe Dr. Johnson as a surgeon, but he did not allow the association to terminate here for he recognized Dr. Johnson as a great teacher and took advantage of all the available chances to be with him and to learn what made this man so singular among men.

Dr. Fine.

Our next speaker is one of Dr. Johnson's most brilliant students. Dr. Perry B. Hudson has this day come up from New York to pay tribute to the man who launched him on his distinguished career. Many of you will remember Dr. Hudson as a recent Peer P. Johnson lecturer. Dr. Hudson was a Surgical Resident at Beverly in 1945 -- or during the

war -- and was of enormous help to Dr. Johnson. He is Professor of Urology at Montefiore Hospital in New York City and Professor of Zoology at Columbia University. He is one of Beverly's most loyal alumni and returns often to visit us.

Dr. Hudson.

Of all those on stage who are here principally because of their hospital connection with Dr. Johnson, I am by all odds the youngest. Perhaps, therefore, it is fitting for me as a representative of the new generation to give thanks for the superb medical facility which Dr. Johnson created and left for us. I consider it our challenge and our duty to perpetuate his teachings and his ideals. Maintaining the standards which he has set would be indeed a most lasting and most worthwhile memorial.

I should like to call on Rabbi Irwin Botwinick of Temple B'nai Abraham to pronounce the benediction.

Rabbi Botwinick.

INVOCATION BY FATHER PATRICK H. CURTIN
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

Almighty and Eternal God, our heavenly Father, in Whom we live, move and have our being - Thou Who art our first beginning and our last end - humbly do we invoke Thy blessing upon all here present. We are gathered on this solemn occasion to pay a just and a loving tribute to the memory of Doctor Peer P. Johnson. We thank Thee for the gifts which Thou didst bestow upon him and for the services which he performed for the good of his fellow man. The zeal, the knowledge, the skill, and the enthusiasm that he possessed in life will long be remembered by the citizens of this community.

"If we work upon marble", said a great American, Daniel Webster, "it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon mortal souls, if we imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and the love of fellow man, we engrave on those tablets something which will brighten all eternity."

Doctor Johnson's love of God, his solicitude for the welfare of his fellow man, his dedication to his chosen profession, his charity toward all - these are his monuments that will endure and shine for all eternity.

Grant him, O God, eternal rest and a place of refreshment in Thy heavenly kingdom. We ask this in the name of Him Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

REMARKS BY MAYOR THOMAS J. WICKERS, JR.
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

"I'm glad I live in Beverly." How often do we hear this remark by our fellow residents?

I can honestly say that I have heard it hundreds of times and probably for a hundred different reasons. However, there is no doubt that one of the main reasons is that Dr. Peer P. Johnson lived here and by his devotion to mankind, he made Beverly a better city in which to live.

It was just 60 years ago that Dr. Johnson came to Beverly as a young man, full of ambition to practice his chosen field. It was impossible at that time to foresee the impact he would have on this community, but not many years went by before he was a leader in the city.

Although he gained nation-wide respect in his own field of surgery, he was not one to confine his activities to his own interests. He served the city as a member of the school committee and served his country in the armed forces, both in the Spanish-American War and World War I.

As Mayor of Beverly I cannot speak with authority on his qualifications as a medical man, but I can speak for the thousands of patients which he served in his 60 years in Beverly. I need not tell this gathering of the many people walking the streets of Beverly today, only because of Dr. Johnson's gifted skill in the practice of surgery.

In addition to his own personal service to patients, he must also be recognized as the man most responsible for Beverly Hospital as we know it today. He wanted only the best for this city as far as hospitalization was concerned and he was never satisfied until he had achieved that goal.

It was a proud day for Dr. Johnson when the new 300 bed building at Beverly Hospital was dedicated and named in his honor. But more important, it was an extremely fortunate day for the residents of Beverly. This city has always been proud of its medical facilities and the men who serve in them, but this was never more true than it is today.

I find it hard to imagine Beverly without Dr. Johnson. I knew him as a doctor. I knew him as a valued consultant on various community problems. But, more important, I knew him as a personal friend.

He is gone, but we can all thank God that he selected Beverly as the city in which he would practice his profession. No one alive in this city today, including the infants born this morning at Beverly Hospital, will ever live long enough to forget what he did for Beverly.

From this day forward, Dr. Johnson's contributions to Beverly will always come to mind when I hear the remark, "I'm glad I live in Beverly."

REMARKS BY ALBERT E. PARKHURST, M.D.
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

We are gathered here this afternoon in a demonstration of our love and admiration for Dr. Johnson, who died rather quietly on February 28 after a short final illness. Although retired and admittedly in poor health for the past few years, the news of his death came as a shock to many. We all are profoundly saddened by his death, for we realize that we have now lost the one person who years ago, almost single-handed, started Beverly Hospital on its sound and productive course that has led to its recognition as an outstanding community hospital. He led in developing the hospital that Dr. Samuel W. Torrey founded!

When Mrs. Parkhurst and I came here in June 1920, directly after a short honeymoon, Dr. Johnson was about 45 years old and was approaching his prime. Having been discharged from Army service in April 1919 as a Lieutenant Colonel, following a distinguished career overseas, he was in excellent physical condition, enthusiastically engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery, and a tireless worker. At that time he had a large general practice, which included obstetrics, but he was planning to do surgery only. From this valuable experience in general practice, he acquired a great deal of general knowledge that added to his diagnostic ability and remarkable judgment, especially as related to surgical patients and conditions. At that time Beverly Hospital was not very impressive as an institution, but I believed the opportunity had great possibilities.

Being a charter member of the American College of Surgeons, he enthusiastically started making changes at Beverly Hospital and in the Staff, so that it would meet requirements when inspected. It was examined in 1921 and given a Certificate of Approval. This process has since been repeated several times and always with favorable results. Fortunately for Beverly, he was made Chief of Staff as well as Chief of Surgery and was continued in both positions for many years. He resigned as Chief of Surgery in 1953 and as Chief of Staff in 1961. He was a courageous, energetic leader with vision and determination and the hospital soon had the confidence of the community and was recognized abroad. He behaved as a chief, in action as well as in title. His influence reached out to the Board of Directors, to the officers in the hospital, and also to the Staff. Naturally, he aroused criticism and antagonism and made some enemies, but the hospital prospered -- not only as regards patient care, but also in its educational program and its value to the community. Competence and character, plus good medical ethics and the desire to help out and work with others, became the requirements for Staff positions and the opportunity of treating patients. His methods and ideas were sound and were supported both by the Directors and the Staff. He was also genuine, kind-hearted, generous, and his honesty and integrity were never questioned.

He was an excellent teacher and his ward rounds were highly instructive, as were the clinics that he prepared for the Staff and neighboring physicians. One objective was to sharpen the diagnostic ability of physicians who saw patients complaining of abdominal pain,

as too many patients who had appendicitis reached the hospital after perforation and peritonitis had occurred. The results of his campaign gave increasingly better results in the years following.

These ward rounds were always informal, and if he had time there was a great deal of fun and amusement. He never tired of trying to make some of his older Swedish patients believe that he, too, was Swedish, as his name might imply. Some took enough stock in it to check with others!

Many other interesting incidents occurred throughout the years, as several of our House Staff will recall. I well remember that one morning he found the lady in the most expensive private room unhappy because her scrambled eggs were too hard and dry. He promptly took her plate to the diet kitchen where he scrambled two more eggs, which were much more attractively done, and she pronounced them perfect. Many, many times he visited the wards at mealtimes to inspect the food being served, the service, and to hear the comments from patients, whether good or bad. He wanted the food eaten rather than wasted, and he also realized that to keep patients happy, in good morale, and to assist in their progress, good food would be essential.

Although believed by many to be stern and abrupt, he really was very friendly and a good mixer, as we all know. He was keenly interested in civic affairs, served on the School Committee, was an enthusiastic and loyal alumnus of the University of Vermont, where he received both his academic and medical education, and was an all-round, outstanding and prominent citizen. He appreciated good jokes and always had at least

one to tell. Our Christmas parties and the Interns' Reunions were gala occasions, and he was the life of the party.

Being a good and logical thinker, as well as a clever surgeon, it is no surprise that he viewed the advent of antibiotics with some doubt and suspicion, instead of promptly accepting them as miracle drugs, without question. He had an opinion on all problems and questions so vital to the practice of medicine and surgery and was ready to help when needed. He was particularly disturbed at the rising cost of hospital and medical care and was a strong advocate of prepaid hospital and medical insurance. He was always most happy when he could tell his patient that surgery would not be necessary, although it had been considered a good possibility when he was admitted to the hospital.

He realized, too, that to succeed in the competition with other hospitals, Beverly had to have an attractive educational program for its attending staff, as also for its house staff. To this end he did a great deal of teaching and also supported the hospital's educational program. In connection with this, he hoped that the cost of such a project might sometime be supported by the income from a fund rather than to be entirely assumed by the hospital. Accordingly, a few years ago, with some money given to him to be used as he saw fit, he decided to start a fund for the educational program. He contributed to this and also wrote some of his friends, who also made a donation. He hoped this would grow until the interest might reach a sizable figure and contribute largely to the cost of our house staff and our teaching program. We still have a long

way to go! How pleased, humble and grateful would he have been if he could have known about the unidentified lady who thrust a handful of coins into the hands of one of Mr. Moody's men at the Funeral Home, saying it was all she could afford and she wanted it given to the Educational Fund. She set a great pattern for the rest of us to follow.

One could go on, but already we know that Dr. Johnson's name was synonymous with Beverly Hospital and the highest standard of medical practice. We know he played a large part pioneering in its growth and development, although increasingly assisted by the house and attending staff of the hospital, as he would readily admit.

Already honored by the hospital, which gave his name to the revised Surgery and the new patient building, and by the Beverly Hospital Research Foundation, which yearly sponsors the Peer P. Johnson Lecture, I believe his influence, example and teaching will remain to guide and encourage us as we endeavor to carry on and maintain the high standards that he helped achieve. As proof of this, our clinical group has been happy and proud to change its name to The Johnson Clinic of Beverly Hospital and will strive to keep Beverly Hospital in the front line of teaching community hospitals.

To those of us who knew and worked with him, the significance of the saying "Old soldiers never die" seems entirely logical and real.

REMARKS BY MR. FREDERICK AYER
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

I greet you as a group assembled here because of a common tie -- our affection and admiration for our great-hearted friend. For 40 years it has been my privilege to work with Dr. Johnson on hospital problems, but it was over 47 years ago when I first called on him for help. So, you see, we have been good friends for a long time. We were living on a hill far from the main road in Topsfield when our first child decided to arrive quite unexpectedly, and, at that, during a nasty blizzard and after midnight. There was a good foot of sticky new snow and it was quite impossible for the Boston obstetrician in charge to get there, so I telephoned Dr. Johnson, whom I scarcely knew. The response was immediate. Although there were no snow tires in 1915, and cars not so reliable, somehow he got there in 20 minutes by the watch--and all was well. Since then he not only brought our 4 other children into the world, but has seen all 7 of us successfully through 13 different surgical emergencies.

But his talents were far broader than required by such technical procedures: One day many years ago, a check to the hospital for $10,000 (and dollars were worth more in those days) turned up in the morning mail. It came from a gentleman who had never been a Beverly Hospital patient. I knew that he had had some heartbreaking family problems, so I called to thank him. He said: "You would like to know why I sent you that check--it was in appreciation of something for which

I could never pay. Without the help of your chief, I believe I would have gone off my rocker. He is the finest psychologist, philosopher and friend I have ever known." This was typical of the qualities which endeared him to his many friends, including the myriad patients who came to him for help, and got it.

Because others here are better qualified to do so, I shall touch only briefly on his wonderful work as a surgeon. His standards were nothing short of perfection, his technical skill extraordinary, and his surgical judgment, which means largely when and how to operate, was superlative. It was his fixed policy never to operate unless he considered it essential, and yet I never heard of a case where the patient suffered from his reluctance to incur this risk, and if he considered surgery imperative, nobody had more courage.

But I am sure that Dr. Johnson would consider his greatest achievement was providing the very best medical care to this community. This was his sole objective and he knew that this required the assembling of a competent staff and a well equipped hospital, both for the care of patients and to attract good men. No leader could accomplish these ends as well as a benevolent dictator, and this is a pretty fair description of what the doctor became. He attained this status without any specific authority because men realized the truth of the saying, "He who knows and knows that he knows, is a leader, follow him." By virtue of his dominating personality, extraordinary professional skill, absolute fairness and devotion to a cause, nothing could stop him.

Not only did he attract the necessary good men to his staff, but inspired them with team spirit and a desire to serve. To these men he has left a great challenge as well as to the president and trustees and the hospital administration, a challenge to carry on this tradition of progress, team play and service. May we all be equal to the task. No tribute could please him more than thus to perpetuate his life's work.

REMARKS BY MISS MAE A. BARTLEY
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

Relatives and friends of Dr. Johnson, it is with great humility that I speak to you.

One of the greatest Christian leaders of the early church, Augustine, once said "Man lives by the traditions of the past, in the hopes of the future, but makes his decisions in the present." No truer statement has ever been made concerning the life of man. It is especially appropriate in this hour when we reflect on the life of the man whose memory we are honoring today. A kind voice and skilled hands have been stilled, but the image of this great man will remain in the hearts and minds of the many who were privileged to know him.

An impressive monument to this great surgeon--friend of the ill--stands on a knoll overlooking the city of Beverly. Structurally, it is made of brick, mortar and steel--cold materials. But, within its walls it radiates warmth, helpfulness and hope to the helpless, renewed health to the sick. A place where the cry of the newborn is heard, and to others the weariness of life comes to an end. How happy Dr. Johnson must have been to know that "his hope of the future" providing the best medical care for the Community had become a reality during his lifetime.

I have many memories over a period of 40 years of association with Dr. Johnson at the Beverly Hospital. When I was a young student nurse we were taught many things; but, we did not have to be taught to respect the Chief. Dr. Johnson just naturally commanded respect. And, I might

add that this was not difficult for anyone of us to do--and it lasted throughout the years. Memories.....Ward Rounds.....and the familiar Alcohol Towel. His teaching of good patient care to the doctors, residents, interns and nurses at the bedside of the patient. When Dr. Johnson and his entourage entered the Ward, we all stood at sort of attention. We hopefully had everything in readiness, and then observed and listened as he stopped at the bedside of each surgical patient to review and prescribe for the patient's welfare. While on night duty I saw Dr. Johnson at the hospital in the middle of the night, exerting all his medical knowledge and skill to save the life of a critically ill patient. Later, when I was Administrator of the hospital, I frequently sought his advice. It was comforting to know that there was always that bulwark of guidance and strength--Dr. Johnson--to call upon when needed.

During World War II, Dr. Johnson had additional responsibilities because so many of the doctors were in Military Service. His boundless energy and enthusiasm for work outdid the efforts of many a younger person. I remember a winter's night many years ago. We had a terrific snowstorm, and the following morning all transportation was at a standstill. No roads open. Nothing moving on the streets or roads. We at the hospital said, "The doctors will not get to the hospital this morning"--but, how silly we were to think that because the "Chief" arrived, not at his usual hour of 7 a.m. but shortly afterward, and do you know how he managed to get there?--on snowshoes and with sheer grit.

I can tell you that we were certainly happy to see him. In those days we did not have interns or resident doctors at the hospital.

Dr. Johnson had the interests of all the patients at heart and to see him come from the bedside of a hopelessly ill patient, one could tell by his facial expression his deep concern and sadness. His charity at the hospital was boundless. His care of the Ward patients and many others, for more than fifty years, without any monetary remuneration--but the knowledge of having given the best in medical skill in helping patients to improved health. His kindness in other ways was unlimited. To those in need, if known to him, his help was always available. From the very sick little boy who wanted a truck to the elderly grandmother who after treatment at the OPD he saw to it that a taxi took her home, and, that the little boy received the truck.

Regardless of the status of a person associated with the Beverly Hospital--doctors, nurses, technicians, secretaries, cooks, and the people who kept the hospital clean and others, all loved and respected Dr. Johnson.

I would like to think that my humble remarks at this Memorial Service are a reflection of their tribute to the memory of Dr. Johnson. We shall all miss him--his passing is a profound loss to the Hospital and Community. I am sorry for those who will come along in later years, because they will not have known Dr. Johnson.

Walt Whitman, I think, said that it's not so important what you do with the years of your life, but it's very important how you use each

hour. That is how Dr. Johnson lived. All physicians know the Hippocratic Oath but perhaps, even in this learned gathering, there might be a few who are unaware that Hippocrates also wrote "The Precepts." Mind you now, this is roughly 2300 years ago. "Sometimes", intoned this sage old man, "give your services for nothing, calling to mind a previous benefaction or satisfaction. For where there is love of man, there is also love of the art. For some patients, though conscious that their condition is perilous, recover their health simply through their contentment with the goodness of the physician." Dr. Peer P. Johnson could reach across the centuries and call Hippocrates, "Brother."

To Dr. Johnson's family, I offer my deepest sympathy in their great loss, but how proud you must be of the great heritage he has left.

REMARKS BY REV. ROBERT RASCHE
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

I feel particularly privileged in speaking as one of the community in appreciation of Dr. Johnson, and I shall say to you representing the community essentially what I said to his family and very close friends a week ago at his funeral.

In the long years of Beverly's history there have been a number of men who have given themselves outstandingly to the welfare of our community, but none was any greater benefactor than the man whom we were privileged to know, to love, to work and associate with, and in whose memory we gather here today--our loved one and friend, Peer P. Johnson. None of us could say all the worthy things that could and should be said of this fine man. I would like to mention just a few of the things which made this fine person what he is--for he is not dead. Life has but set him free. You in the family will cherish the memory of the many wonderful occasions when as brother, as a loving and understanding father and grandfather he showed his love to you and your responding love brought joy to him. These memories of your very familiar association with him will comfort and bless you in all the years to come.

Gifted by God with outstanding intelligence, he gave himself to the pursuits of life with rich versatility. We think first of his hobbies--woodcrafting, sailing, travel and language--and then we would think of his vocation where his skill and devotion and vision brought to him, very deservedly, honor and recognition and fame.

A doctor, I think in even greater measure than a minister, is brought very close to the hopes and fears and problems of many families, and Dr. Johnson was one who knew the families of the community and brought them confidence and courage as he set the conditions for their healing. So he was naturally loved and deeply respected by his patients.

THE AESCULAPIAN

"Who follows AEsculapius
Shall Dives know and Lazarus--
Shall chide and chasten, christen, shrive,
Keep fear at bay, keep faith alive,
Give to the new-born babe its breath,
And fold the frigid hands of Death.

While others walk the sunny street,
Year after year his weary feet
Shall tread the Vale of Shadows grim,
Where men and women cling to him;
And all their travail he shall share,
All grief endure, all burdens bear.

Far more than mere anatomy
His penetrating eye shall see--
The strength and courage of the weak,
The innate boldness of the meek,
And, even as the gods, divine
How vice and virtue intertwine.

Such is his lot. And what reward
Will humankind, at last, accord?
Someone, perhaps, he once relieved
Of pain, before his bier bereaved
May bow, and, on a stone, may limn:
'Death beat, but could not conquer him.' "

He was not only a faithful family doctor, but he was a man of great vision, particularly in the field of medical service to the whole community. In guiding the development of the Beverly Hospital with the

highest medical standards along all lines he gave the community something far greater than is represented in its material cost. The Hospital stands as a monument to him. And yet he would be first most graciously to recognize in his achievement the contribution of his worthy associates and the sustaining strength of those who loved and cared for him at home.

At the Hospital he practised his special skill as a surgeon. As he operated he set the conditions in which a Power Greater than Man could bring healing. With his skill and devotion and extreme carefulness he glorified God--

THE SURGEON'S HAND

"His face? I know not whether it be fair,
Or lined and grayed to mark the slipping years.
His eyes? I do not glimpse the pity there,
Or try to probe their depths for hopes or fears.
Only upon his wondrous hands I gaze,
And search my memory through so fittingly
To voice their loveliness. In still amaze
I bow before their quiet dignity.
They make the crooked straight and heal old sores;
The blind to see, the war-torn clean and whole.
Throughout the suffering world they touch the doors
That open wide to life. The bitter bowl
Of pain they sweeten till the weary rest,
As though the hand of Christ had served and blest."

--Ida Norton Munson.

His son said, "When I see the Hospital on the hill I think of it as Dad's church." He went about teaching the young, comforting and

healing the sick with his skill. It was here, knowing that he must soon sail away that he said, "I wonder if God is ready for me, I am ready for Him"--the simple, yet profound faith of a truly great soul. Underlying his greatness of course, is his unwavering integrity. Always true to himself, he could not be false to anyone. It was this integrity that made him seek diligently the truth in his science. It was this integrity that made him honest in all human relationships.

It is appropriate that I close these remarks with a reading suggested by his daughter. From Pilgrim's Progress I read--

BUNYAN'S PILGRIMS

(MR. VALIANT-FOR-TRUTH)

"After this it was noised abroad that Mr. Valiant-for-Truth was taken with a summons by the same post as the other, and had this for a token that the summons was true, that his pitcher was broken at the fountain. When he understood it, he called for his friends, and told them of it. Then said he, I am going to my Father's; and though with great difficulty I am got hither, yet now I do not repent me of all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am. My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage, and my courage and skill to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me that I have fought His battles Who now will be my rewarder. (When the day that he must go hence was come, many accompanied him to the riverside, into which as he went he said, "Death, where is thy sting?" And as he went down deeper, he said, "Grave, where is thy victory?") So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

REMARKS BY JACOB H. FINE, M.D.
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

It has been said that a prophet is without honor in his own country in his own time. It can safely be said that Dr. Johnson is the exception that proves the rule. What was there about this man that made him appear ten feet tall in my eyes throughout a long and intimate association?

In my days as an intern at the Beverly Hospital, it was apparent that I was privileged to watch and assist a master physician and surgeon. In an extraordinary number of stressful surgical problems over the years, I never failed to be impressed with his clear thinking and sure hand. What a source of comfort and strength he was to nurses and doctors as we struggled to keep pace with his tempo. All of us who were given the opportunity to be with him in the operating room are better nurses and doctors than we might otherwise have been.

In the past twenty-seven wonderful years he taught me many things, not the least of which was the true meaning of Loyalty, Dedication, Integrity and Devotion. I shall never again hear the expression "over and beyond the call of duty" without thinking of Dr. Johnson.

All of the things I have said are reasons enough for offering respect and admiration, but are these all of the reasons one feels something deeper - something akin to hero worship? No. I believe it was the many human traits of this man which served to emphasize his greatness and called forth emotions over and beyond admiration.

I remember how he traveled all over the North Shore and to Boston

to buy fun hats, tricks of all kinds, and strangely behaving dolls to distribute at the Christmas parties for the interns and their wives. As he would hand out these gifts, none laughed more than Dr. Johnson.

What an adventure it sometimes was to be driven by him to Boston or his beloved state of Vermont. One day we left for Boston and at once fell into an animated discussion of some hospital business. We had gotten to Lynn before he shifted the automobile into high gear. The first time I accompanied him to Burlington, Vermont we were going along very comfortably. When we crossed a bridge he took off his hat and gave me a terrific nudge. He ordered me to remove my hat - you see, we had crossed into his Vermont. Thereafter, on any trip to that state I made certain to remove my hat on crossing the state boundary.

Did you know that Dr. Johnson was an athlete having played football in the days of little equipment and the flying wedge? He maintained a keen interest in sports all of his life. When I arrived in Beverly he had only recently given up tennis, but I had the opportunity to go to baseball and hockey games with him. What fun it was. How it annoyed him when the players and managers failed to follow his advice.

I remember how Dr. Johnson carried the surgical load during the Second World War, and at day's end he would drive out to his son's farm, hop on the tractor and plow the field for relaxation. Who among us, who saw him on his bicycle will ever forget the determination with which he headed for a particular place. Even though he was in his late sixties, I found his pace too strenuous.

It was about this time he was also studying Spanish. He went at it with such determination and in such depth that he became fluent in the language. This accomplishment ultimately led to his first visit to Spain, and I was fortunate to be able to make the trip with him. How well I remember the head on collision of this early rising, early to work New England Yankee with the late rising, late to work Spaniard. The Spanish siesta from 1 - 4 p.m. he was finally forced to accept. It was almost painful to watch him try to change the habits of a lifetime in order to blend into this strange and interesting country, and how all the Spanish people we met tried to outdo each other in entertaining this Spanish-speaking American. I became Sancho Panchez to his Don Quixote and basked in reflected glory.

There is not time to recount all my memories of this many sided man, and perhaps I can best summarize by saying that Dr. Johnson recognized medicine as a jealous mistress and gave to her and the Beverly Hospital the full measure of his devotion. He will be a source of inspiration to those who knew and loved him so long as we draw breath.

REMARKS BY PERRY B. HUDSON, M.D.
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

Yesterday I waited to begin my lecture at the Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. My wife telephoned to tell me that Dr. Johnson had died. There is only one Dr. Johnson in my life, though many bear this name. Because he is the man who made me reach a little further, last a little longer, stand a little taller. He never asked me to. It is simply what happens to those who watch the living genesis of a legend.

Dr. Johnson had the unlimited strength prerequisite to kindness, his stock in humane trade. Vermonters are supposed to trade, and they know how. Vicarious trades require a Master, yet I watched this one use the blade of kindness to have his patients trade - surely, they traded despair for hope, pain for comfort. And then they stood a little straighter waiting by the hospital door to go home.

We Christians are supposed to rejoice when death ends the long life's work which only stems from kindness. And if God is one man's kindness for another, Peer Johnson is his natural partner.

But I can't rejoice yet. I am still too selfish. Yesterday the sky fell down.

And my lecture was not good. I was only giving it for Dr. Johnson, anyway, but I did not know this until he died.

I wrote to give you comfort, but cannot. Instead I speak in gratitude for you who unobtrusively helped a man who achieved the keenest

triumphs of which the human mind is capable. And his one graceless quality was related to being offered help - he, who always gave.

You'll be in Beverly in June, and so will I. Don't leave an empty chair. He saw that it was filled before he left.

REMARKS BY RABBI IRWIN K. BOTWINICK
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

When a man dies, a death-notice appears in the press. In reality, it is a life-notice, but for this notice, the world would never have known that that man had ever been alive. Of how many can we say, "And he lived." This phrase is applicable to the man who has been a force for human goodness, and abides in the hearts and souls m[illegible] better by his presence, during his pilgrimage on earth. We can say of Dr. Peer Johnson that he lived and only such a one as he is heir to immortality.

In the sunset of Dr. Johnson's career, we behold his storm-tossed soul on his death-bed blessing us the citizens and residents of Beverly, his many friends and neighbors, from myriad walks of life. He is not afraid to die. "I will sleep with my fathers," he says. He is at peace with God. "For Thy salvation do I hope, O Lord," are among the last words he utters.

He knows that he can never travel beyond God's care. He is at peace with man. His is no cloistered virtue and he certainly is no sinless being, nevertheless, he possesses the rare art of extracting good from every buffeting of Destiny.

When the time of Dr. Johnson drew near, he desired this form of a memorial, I feel, to stress that we are all brothers and the children of one Father - this service is the symbol of our unity. We can deal in true kindness with his memory if we his heirs continuously execute his wishes as regards our city, all therein, where he lived and toiled all the days of his life.

Every day played an important role in the life of Dr. Peer Johnson. He lived every day, every moment counted. Longevity per se is not a blessing, but the way Dr. Johnson lived each day was an unparalleled gift to us.

Each of us, the children of his loins, his students, his colleagues, his fellow workers, his friends and neighbors know that he adopted us. We can adopt Dr. Johnson, if we take an oath now, and give assurance to his life that we shall fulfill his wishes.

Today, we of the Jewish faith observe the Festival of Purim or Lots. In the spirit of Dr. Peer Johnson, I recall that the Scroll of Esther stresses the unity in our differences. Today we mark this hour by advocating that we are fulfilling the wishes of Dr. Johnson, as long as we do this thing, he still lives.

May the Father of us all comfort the family.

REMARKS BY CLARENCE E. MOORE, M.D.
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. JOHNSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1963

It is a privilege for me to take part in this Memorial Service to my Chief - Dr. Johnson, who meant so much to me.

I first met Dr. Johnson 38 years ago, when I came to Beverly as a junior intern. I was so much impressed with this man that I returned the following year for another junior internship. When it came time for me to return to college for my final year, he called me aside and said, "Do you have enough money to go back to school?" He said this with a twinkle in his eye because he surely knew how much I needed it. He gave me $1000 and said it was from a special fund for needy interns. He made a stipulation, however; first that I was to return to Beverly, and that I was to pay the money back as soon as I could.

As interns at Beverly Hospital, we had the utmost respect for him as a great surgeon, a fine teacher, and above all as a great man. But as the years went by and I kept in close touch with him, we developed a close friendship and I grew to love him.

I have lost a great and good friend whose encouragement, counsel and wisdom have meant so much to me over the past 35 years.

Perhaps Oliver Wendell Holmes, another great New Englander, said it best:

EACH YEAR TAKES A TOLL OF THOSE WHOM WE LOVE,
WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN TWINED WITH OUR OWN,
BUT WE SMILE THROUGH THE TEARS AS WE SAY GOODBYE,
FOR SOME DAY WE'LL MEET 'ROUND GOD'S THRONE.

Copy also to Mrs. John W. Bethell and Peer P. Johnson, Jr.

BEVERLY HOSPITAL
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

March 20, 1963

Dear Mrs. Alt:

At a meeting of the Medical Staff on March 19, 1963 the following resolutions were adopted memorializing your father's many years with us in Beverly:

Whereas, on February 28, 1963 the Medical Staff of the Beverly Hospital was saddened by the death of Dr. Peer P. Johnson, and

Whereas, Dr. Johnson for over half a century practiced his chosen profession in Beverly in accordance with the finest standards of medicine and surgery, earning the love and respect of his patients and colleagues alike, and

Whereas, his devotion to the care of his patients and to the Beverly Hospital, and his intense interest in the education of young physicians will be a guide and inspiration to all who will follow in his path; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be inscribed in the permanent records of the Medical Staff of the Beverly Hospital and copies be sent to his children, in recognition of the loss we have all sustained in the passing of a great physician, Dr. Peer P. Johnson.

Sincerely yours,

Paul E. Tivnan, M.D., Secretary

Memorial to Peer P. Johnson

(*From Minutes of Meeting of Directors held April* 15, 1963)

Peer P. Johnson came to Beverly by way of the University of Vermont and the Boston City Hospital as a surgeon at the age of 28. At that time, 1903, Beverly Hospital was a young promising institution of 16 beds on Central Street with a staff of nine doctors under Dr. Torrey.

For 65 years, Dr. Johnson and Beverly Hospital struggled and succeeded together in their efforts to serve the community. As one grew in stature, so did the other. As the years passed, the thought of one became incomplete without the thought of the other. Their fates were inexorably entwined. For 45 of these years, the Hospital looked to Dr. Johnson as its Chief.

Dr. Johnson died on February 28, 1963 at the age of 87. On looking around us, however, we see Beverly Hospital as it is today—a modern strong, well-equipped, fully integrated facility of 273 beds and 71 excellent doctors—proof that his achievements and his work have lived on.

It would be presumptuous in any resolve to summarize the deeds of this man. Phi Beta Kappa, cum laude, highest honors in Medical School, veteran of the Spanish American War and World War I rising from Captain to Lt. Colonel in the Medical Corps, founder-member of both the American Board of Surgery and the American College of Surgeons—all accomplishments that portray only a part of the picture. He was not only a skilled surgeon but also a family doctor of the old school—one to whom the house call was basic to his profession. He was imaginative and farsighted, quick to appreciate and encourage modern techniques and medicines. Disciplinarian, yet fair and understanding, authoritarian, yet sympathetic and sensitive, he was a true leader who knew how to inspire. Although a good organizer and director, he was more a doer than a delegator. He was a man of lively humor. He loved and was keenly interested in the people and in the world in which he moved. This man was truly a giant in our midst.

It is in his tradition that we, the directors of Beverly Hospital, intend to carry on. Our aim is to keep his spirit that of the Hospital—alive and vibrant.

RESOLVED: That this tribute to his memory be spread upon our records and a copy sent to his family with our deepest sympathy.